

## 2014-2015 South County Marching Stallions – Quick Guide

**Who is eligible to join?** Rising 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> graders attending SCHS. Select 8<sup>th</sup> may be selected based on audition/teacher recommendation.

**Winds and Percussion:** Musicians must participate in a curricular, school day music class. Musicians who are enrolled in Symphonic Band (advanced band) are required to take part either in marching band or a fall school/ VHSL activity.

**Color Guard:** There is currently no curricular requirement to be a part of the color guard. Students participating in color must audition in the late spring/early summer and participate in an early August color guard camp (August 4-8). No prior experience is required. Members of the color guard will be trained on all equipment necessary for performance in the fall marching show.

### Marching Band Camp/Summer Rehearsals/After-School Practices

**All students are expected to attend all rehearsals and camps.** Please make every attempt to schedule doctor's appointments, vacations, jobs, etc. outside of marching band practice time. Every member is needed in order for the band to have a successful season. Marching band is the ultimate TEAM activity and if one member is missing it will have a negative effect on the entire group. In order to put the best product on the field, the director(s) and staff need to have all members at every rehearsal. Please contact Mr. English if there are conflicts and also notify your section leader(s).

**What is the cost:** The expected cost of participation in the 2014 Marching Stallions is **\$400**. This includes the **\$100 FCPS Sponsored Activity Fee** and the **\$300 Marching Band Materials Fee**. This amount helps to cover music, drill, instruction, show t-shirt, group events, 8<sup>th</sup> grade night. The final amount will be determined by the number of students participating and the amount of support given by FCPS. **Families with multiple marchers will receive a 10% discount**. Fundraising opportunities (car wash, pie sale, cookie dough sale, SCRIP, etc.) are available to help defray the costs. Please visit our website ([www.southcountybands.org](http://www.southcountybands.org)) for more information about fundraising.

A **\$100** deposit is due by **June 23**, along with the Membership Commitment Form. This deposit ensures we are able to fund our summer rehearsals season costs that begin to add up this time of year. A second payment of **\$150** is due **July 15** and the final payment (**TBD**) will be due on **August 11** – the first day of band camp

All instrumental (winds and percussions) members are required to purchase black marching shoes and UnderAmour. All Color Guard members are required to purchase white or tan dance shoes and white or tan color guard gloves. The order for shoes items will be placed by the band – no exceptions. We are also able to order UnderAmour at a significant discount. Please see below for next page for more information.

If you are not able to make these financial obligations, please contact Mr. English ([gary.english@fcps.edu](mailto:gary.english@fcps.edu)) or Amy [REDACTED] – Marching Band Coordinator [REDACTED] and we can help set up an alternative plan. Financial assistance is available for students on free and reduced lunch. **DO NOT ALLOW FINANCES TO KEEP YOU/YOUR STUDENT FROM JOINING THIS GREAT ACTIVITY!**

### Marching Stallions Uniform and Accessories

All members of the marching band will be issued a uniform at the beginning of the marching band season: It is the responsibility of each member to take care of his or her uniform to ensure we, as a band, look great at all times. Uniform parts may include: garment bag, waterproof overcoat, jacket, bibber pants, gauntlets, shako (hat), shako box, gloves, shoes, custom-fitted color guard uniform (designed to fit the theme of the show). Members are responsible to make sure each uniform properly hanged/returned after every game, competition, or performance on the band hanging racks. **The band closet is not to be entered unless you are with a band parent volunteer.**

**All new marching members are required to purchase black marching shoes and UnderArmour and guard members are required to purchase white or tan color guard gloves and shoes.** In addition, wind and percussion students are required to supply their own black socks to be worn at all games, competitions, and performances. Student not wearing a complete uniform will not be allowed to perform on that day and his or her grade will be affected.

If you are returning member and you have outgrown your shoes or UnderArmour, you will be expected to purchase new items. **All shoes and gloves must be ordered through the band – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The following chart outlines what purchase will need to be made for the uniform and the price for each:

Additional Required Items for Band/Instrumentalists		Additional Required Items for Color Guard	
Marching Shoes	\$38	Guard/Dance Shoes	\$32
UnderArmour	\$30	Guard Gloves	\$13

Please remember that each piece of your uniform is important and is expensive to replace. Uniform and uniform accessories should never be places on the floor where they can be soiled, stepped on, and/or damaged. **If any piece of your uniform is damaged or lost for any reason, you are responsible for the cost of replacing it.** If your uniform becomes wet, dirty, or smelly, we ask that you take it home and launder the bibs. The jackets must be dry-cleaned. Uniforms must be brought back to school the following Monday. It is your responsibility to take care of your uniform throughout the marching season.

**Uniform replacement costs are as follows:**

Winds and Percussion		Color Guard	
Uniform Jacket	\$200	Custom Uniform	approx. \$150
Rain/Cold Weather Coat	75	Rain/Cold Weather Coat	75
Bibber Pants	85	Guard Shoes	32
Black Shoes	38	Guard Gloves	13
UnderArmour	30	Garment Bag	10
Plume	25	Hanger	2
Shako	25		
Shako Box	15		
Garment Bag	10		
Black Gloves	2		
Hanger	2		
White Glove (rehearsal)	2		

**Marching Stallions Contact Information:**

Band Office: 703-446-1991

Band Director – Gary English, [gary.english@fcps.edu](mailto:gary.english@fcps.edu)

Color Guard Instructor – Samantha Ballard, [sballard@fcps.edu](mailto:sballard@fcps.edu)

Band Booster President – Tracy [REDACTED]

VP-Operations and Marching Band Coordinator – Amy [REDACTED]

VP-Fundraising – Jennifer [REDACTED]

**Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band,  
Percussion Ensemble  
Syllabus, Expectations and Guidelines  
Gary English – Director**



Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the South County Music Program! We are excited about working with you this year. In order for our program to grow and be successful, it will be essential for all students to follow the expectations and guidelines set forth in this syllabus. Please feel free to contact either of us if you ever have questions or concerns.

**Contact Information:**

**Gary English**

Phone: (703) 446-1991

Gary.English@fcps.edu

Planning Periods: 2, 3

**Band Website: [www.SouthCountyBands.org](http://www.SouthCountyBands.org)**

Includes calendars, band handbook, and other pertinent information

**Course Overview:**

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance in Band/Percussion Ensemble
Prerequisite	Audition with Director of Bands (Symphonic Band Only)

Students will receive intense study of band literature. There will be strong emphasis on the fundamentals of sound production on the student's selected instrument, embouchure, hand position, rhythm, note reading, etc. These students will develop technical skills and the ability to perform exceptionally. Outside-of-school rehearsals will be required and the group will have public performances.

**Materials:**

Students should come to each class prepared with their instrument, music, pencil, planner, and all other supplies necessary for rehearsal (valve oil, reeds, tuner, metronome, etc.). Please refer to the handbook for instrument rental information. All students are expected to keep his or her instrument in working order. Woodwind players are expected to maintain a minimum of 3 extra, working reeds at all times. Brass players are expected to ensure all moving parts (valves and slides) work at all times.

**Uniforms:**

All students are expected to complete all scheduled performances in appropriate formal, concert attire.

Females: Long black concert gown and black dress shoes

Males: Black tuxedo (jacket and pant), bowtie, cummerbund/vest, and black shoes

Students are encouraged to purchase performance attire through the SCHS Band. Order information will be given to the students in October. \*Approximate costs are as follows:

Black gown - \$60

Tuxedo (jacket and pants) - \$100

Tuxedo accessories - \$20

**Textbook:**

Students will be issued music, and method books throughout the course of the year. Failure to return the music/book in excellent condition will result in the student paying to replace the damaged items. The cost for replacing music can run anywhere from \$2-\$20.

**Fees:**

There is a \$100 fee for participation in all high school band classes.\* Students enrolled in more than one band class have an additional fee of \$60 for the second group. This fee covers personal texts, pull-out sectionals, equipment repair/replacement, etc. **This check should be made payable to "SCHS"**. The actual cost per student is over \$250, but the Band Boosters cover the additional expenses.

**Percussionists:**

**There is an additional fee of \$52 for all percussionists in Fairfax County Public Schools.\*** This fee covers the use of all percussion instruments, mallets for the keyboard instruments, timpani, etc. Percussionists only need to supply their own drum sticks and practice pads. **This must be a separate check from the above, and should also be made payable to "SCHS"**.

**Instrument Rental:**

The following instruments are available to be rented from the school: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba. **The cost is \$46 per semester (as mandated by FCPS).\*** **This must be a separate check, and should be made payable to "SCHS"**.

*\*If you are on free or reduced lunch or there is a financial need or your student is enrolled in multiple performing arts classes, please contact Mr. English so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**Standards of Learning:**

This course will be instructed with emphasis on the goals and objectives of the Virginia Music Standards of Learning in connection with the "No Child Left Behind" Act.

**Grading Scale & Make up Work:**

Grading and makeup work policies will follow and adhere to the "FCPS Grading and Reporting for High School" regulations.

**Grading Design:**

30% Tests, Quizzes, and Homework

Including:

- ♫ Written
- ♫ Taped in class or on your own
- ♫ Played in class or individually for the instructor

10% Out of Class Project

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter = Marching Band or In-Class Recital
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter = All District Band Audition (optional just play for teacher for grade)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter = Tape Tests on Festival Music
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter = Solo and Ensemble Festival and/or Recital

10% 9-Week Project – See Handbook for more information

30% Class Attendance and Participation

- ♫ Punctuality
- ♫ Productivity
- ♫ Professionalism

25% Performances

- ♫ Group Assessments
- ♫ After-School Practices
- ♫ Symphonic Band Camp/Clinics

Extra Credit:

- ♫ Attendance at outside musical performances (Must turn in program. Concerts can be free.)
- ♫ Performance at outside musical performances (Must bring in program and/or note from parent)

Example Of An 'A' Student

- ♫ Demonstrates superior work in class and is always prepared.
- ♫ Always works to the best of their ability in class.
- ♫ Is able to work effectively with teachers and classmates and can work independently when needed.
- ♫ Is on time and attentive.

♫ Has correct music, pencil, and equipment at all times.  
*This is the type of active participation expected of an "A" Student, however, it is not the entire criteria for any grade.*

### **Weekly Evaluation**

All students will receive a weekly grade that will assess their progress for that period of time. This grade will be based on, but **not limited** to such elements as **attendance, musical preparedness, skill progress, and demonstration of proper rehearsal technique, maintenance of instrument, music and materials.** Individual practice (minimum: 2 hrs. per week) is expected. Members are expected to come to rehearsals with full command of their part. The director reserves the right to change chairs or parts at his discretion.

### **Concerts and Rehearsals:**

Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Excused absences may include medical emergencies, and death in the family. Sports practices/games are NOT considered to be excused and the student will be marked with an unexcused absence. Any absence (excused or not) *must* be communicated to Mr. English or Mrs. Magwire as far in advance as possible. Unexcused absence from a concert will result in a failing grade for the quarter. After school rehearsals will be regarded the same as rehearsals during the school day and the appropriate attendance policies will be in effect. A calendar detailing all rehearsals, concerts, and events will be handed out on the first day of school. It is also available on the SCSS BCA website: [www.southcountyarts.org](http://www.southcountyarts.org)

### **9-Week Projects:**

All students in South County Bands will be required to complete one 9-Week Project per quarter. An informational sheet will be sent home within the first week of school outlining the project and options for completion. This project will be 10% of the students' quarterly grade.

### **Mastery Learning Policy:**

The purpose of this class is to provide students with an appreciation of and ability to play many different styles of music. To this end, **certain** tests and quizzes will be labeled as upgradeable. Students wishing to upgrade a test or quiz will be required to complete a remediation assignment within a set period of time before the test/quiz will be re-administered. If a student fails to complete the pre-requisite remediation he/she will not be allowed to upgrade.

### **Final Exam**

All students will take final exams or other graded culminating assessment activities in all classes. Any final exam given prior scheduled date must be approved by the student's Assistant Principal through a pre-arranged absence form.

### **Academic Integrity:**

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. It is important that students do their own work to maximize their learning.

**Portable communication devices found in use during any testing environment will result in confiscation and an automatic grade of zero on the test or quiz.**

### **Attendance:**

You are tardy to class after the bell unless you have a pass. Three unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence. Three unexcused absences will result in failure of the course for the quarter. After one unexcused absence or two unexcused tardies, parents and administration will be notified. Excessive absences will be dealt with by the administration.

### **24-7 Learning (<http://fcps.blackboard.com>):**

24-7 Learning (Blackboard) will be used as a primary contact between school and home, so families can be informed of what is going on in school. Students' logins are their student ID numbers. Their original passwords are also their student ID numbers.

### **Back to School Dates:**

High School – Sept. 17 at 6:00 pm



**South County High School**

**FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**8501 Silverbrook Road  
Lorton, Virginia 22079  
703-446-1600**

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Welcome to South County High School! We are pleased that your student has expressed interest in the SCHS Music Program. We invite you to attend "Back to School" night on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to working with you and your student throughout the year. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gary English  
Gary.English@fcps.edu  
(703) 446-1991

✂-----

We have read and understand the Syllabus requirements and expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address (PLEASE PRINT)

Best way to contact you during the school day: \_\_\_\_\_

You have my permission to email my student's grade information. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_