# South Lakes High School Orchestra Handbook



2014-2015

Director: Mr. Baldwin

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**Course Offerings:** 

Concert Orchestra
Symphonic Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to a new year in orchestra! We have a special program here at South Lakes, and I look forward to working with you.

This year, there are many performance options for all of our students, both on- and off-campus, including a spring trip with the guitar students, auditioned honors groups, a solo festival, and five concerts here at the school. Students will have multiple avenues for success, both as individuals and as members of the orchestra.

Information about our spring trip will be coming out in October. In the past, we have taken trips to New York City, Charleston, Boston, Orlando, and Atlanta. These trips are great experiences for the students and the chaperones; please consider coming with us this year.

Highlights of the upcoming year include the following (mandatory events are in bold-face):

September 26 — USAF Orchestra Residency – Chamber Orchestra students during class time

September 26 — USAF Orchestra Concert 7:30 p.m. SLHS

(All students will attend the concert at SLHS and families are welcome, too.)

September 29 — Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions at McLean HS

October 18 — Chamber Orchestra at GMU – Times TBA

October 30 — Fall Orchestra Concert

November 13-15 — Senior Regional Orchestra at Herndon HS

November 18 — All-District Orchestra auditions at Carson MS

November 19-20 — Chamber Orchestra at VMEA Conference in Norfolk, VA

December 18 — Winter Orchestra Concert

(THIS IS THE DAY BEFORE THE LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK. ALL STUDENTS NEED TO ATTEND THIS CONCERT. PLEASE DO NOT GO ON VACATION EARLY.)

January 9-10 — All-District Orchestra at Wakefield HS

February 28 — All-VA auditions at JMU (selected students)

February 26 — Orchestra Pre-Assessment Concert

March 6-7 — District Orchestra Assessment at Washington-Lee HS

April 9-10 — All-VA Orchestra at Christopher Newport University (selected students)

April 16-18 — Spring Trip

April 24 — Solo/Ensemble Festival at Key MS (Franconia/Springfield area)

June 3 — Spring Orchestra Concert

I am very excited about the Chamber Orchestra's upcoming performance at the Virginia Music Educators' State Conference. To prepare for that, we have scheduled clinics with the US Air Force Orchestra to take place here at school and with George Mason University faculty in their wonderful space on their campus.

Our students repeatedly prove the sky is the limit, and I can't wait to see what they accomplish this year.

Sincerely,

Bryan Baldwin Director

#### Orchestra Class Rule

Students will rehearse, perform, and behave like professionals.

#### Course Description

#### Musical instruction focuses on the following concepts:

- 1. Instrumental technique
- 2. Music reading skills and applied theory
- 3. Large group performance and etiquette
- 4. Active listening (musical and verbal)
- 5. Balance (volume and dynamics)

- 6. Intonation (playing in tune)
- 7. Historical and cultural perspective of repertoire
- 8. Music theory and ear training
- 9. Stylistic interpretation of instrumental music

Evaluations may include written, in-class, and/or recorded tests.

Attendance at some after-school rehearsals will be required during the year.

Attendance at concerts will be required during the year (all but one of these will be held at South Lakes; one will be off-site).

#### Students will:

- 1. demonstrate self-control in a large group setting.
- 2. maintain their orchestra folders.
- 3. be ready for every class with a pencil and music.
- 4. participate in all required performances and rehearsals (during and after school).

#### Classroom Materials

- 1. Pencil with an eraser
- 2. Instrument and items necessary for performance (e.g., bow, rosin, chin rest or rock stop)
- 3. Sheet music as supplied by the school
- 4. Extra strings

Students should have a music stand and a place to practice at home. Students should also consider a tuner or metronome (these devices are available in a virtual format for free online at www.metronomeonline.com and www.get-tuned.com/online\_tuners.php.

#### **Ensemble Expectations**

- 1. Be on time to class, after-school rehearsals, and concerts.
- 2. Be ready for class. Practice at home.
- 3. Show **respect** for other students.
- 4. Behave responsibly.

Restroom sign-outs will be limited to three per quarter. Students must sign in- and out.

Students will be prepared to rehearse during Seahawk Seminar.

Students will be bound by the SLHS SR&R.

No phones, food, or disruptions.

#### Rule violations result in:

- 1. Verbal warning
- 2. Detention
- 3. Phone call home
- 4. Misconduct referral

#### Concert Attire

- Girls: black formal dress or black formal separates, black, closed-toe dress shoes with less than 3-inch heel, and clear hosiery. Jewelry may include small earrings. No hats, hoops, or bangles may be worn.
- Boys: black tuxedo (jacket, pants, cummerbund, and bowtie), white tuxedo shirt, black dress shoes, and black socks. No white socks, hats, or visible jewelry may be worn.
- Students not in uniform will not be allowed to perform and will be counted as "unexcused" for the performance.
- Students may donate uniforms that no longer fit to be used by other students in financial need.

Parents are responsible for purchasing the appropriate attire. More details, including uniform company information, are available on Blackboard.com.

A tux package is available for \$90 (jacket, pants, bowtie, cummerbund, shirt, and shoes) – fittings will take place during the first week of school.

#### Fees

The orchestra course fee is \$50 per student, and is due Friday, 26 September 2014.

- \$15 T-shirt
- \$15 Folio, strings, rosin, instrumental supplies
- \$10 Music, rental, accompaniment
- \$10 Recording fees

No student will be denied participation because of financial issues. Any student who requires aid should contact Mr. Baldwin. All matters of this nature are considered confidential and will be handled discretely.

#### Instrument rental

Students must own or rent an instrument to be members of the Seahawk Orchestras. Students may rent or rent-to-own from a local music store.

Cellos, basses, and some violas are available for student rental. The fee for an instrument that is not shared with another student is \$92 per year; if an instrument is shared, the fee is \$46 per year for each student. Checks should be made payable to South Lakes High School. Each student who rents an instrument from the school will receive an FCPS Instrument Rental Contract which should be signed by the student and the parent and returned to the school with the appropriate fee.

Any student who receives free- or reduced-lunch services is eligible to rent an instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass) for a yearly fee of \$20.

Contracts will be distributed during the first two weeks of school and are due by 20 September.

School instruments that develop problems (e.g., broken bridge, stuck pegs, cracks, fallen soundpost, etc.) should be brought to the director. Students should not take any school instruments to a music shop for repair; money spent by a student or parent for the repair of a school-owned instrument cannot be reimbursed.

Students will be held responsible for any instrument damaged through neglect, etc.

#### Concert- and After-School Rehearsal Attendance

The FCPS Program of Studies for Music fully support and state the inclusion of after-school rehearsals and concerts as part of the academic grade.

Performance Standard O1.22-O4.22: Participate in graded co-curricular rehearsals and performances before, during, and after school on and off school grounds.

#### Thus:

Rehearsals and performances are graded. Mark your calendars in advance. Attendance is required at all after-school rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsals and Performances are co-curricular, not extra-curricular. After-school rehearsals and orchestra meetings will be kept to a minimum throughout the year. Schedules are given out well in advance.

#### Performing Arts Attendance and Grading Policies

- Students with an excused absence/tardy may receive up to 100% credit for make-up assignments. For each day a student is absent, he or she will have one day to complete the make-up assignment.
- Students with an *unexcused absence/tardy*: may receive up to 70% credit for make-up assignments. For each day a student is absent, he or she will have one day to complete the assignment.
- It is the responsibility of the *student* to contact teachers and make the arrangements to complete missed assignments.
- Students forfeit the opportunity to participate in performances when they fail to attend scheduled rehearsals during or after school, whether on or off school grounds.
- If a student is removed from a performance he or she must complete an alternate assignment within three days of the performance date to receive up to 70% of the grade for that performance.
- Failure to complete any make-up work will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the assignment regardless of whether the absence was excused or unexcused.

#### Performing Arts Absence Form

- Students unable to attend a rehearsal or concert must complete the Performing Arts Absence Form and turn it in at least two days before a scheduled rehearsal and at least four weeks before a performance. This form must be approved by the director in order for the absence to be excused. If it is not submitted before the absence, the absence will not be excused.
- Students who absent from an event because of illness must turn in the absence form within *one day* upon their return to school. After one day, the absence will not be excused.
- Failure to turn in the form will result in the absence being unexcused.
- The form must be used. Although emails are appreciated to notify the director of absences, emails to the director will not be accepted in lieu of absence forms.
- The form is available on fcps.blackboard.com.

#### Tips for achieving balance:

- You must plan ahead. Don't surprise your parents, teacher, or coach with conflicts.
- Let your athletic coach or other teachers know when you have an after school rehearsal or performance.
- Performing Arts teachers can write you a late pass to other extracurricular activities (athletics, make-up sessions, reviews, etc).
- Communicate scheduling conflicts to your Performing Arts Teacher.

#### Guidelines for Conflicts with After-School Events:

- 1. Students should submit a <u>Performing Arts Absence Form</u>. This form is necessary for every absence from events outside of the school day. It is the director's decision as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused.
  - Note: Turning in a Performing Arts Absence Form does not mean the absence is automatically excused.
- 2. Students will have the opportunity to make up 100% of the work/grade missed due to an excused absence.
- 3. Students will have the opportunity to make up 70% of the work/grade missed due to an unexcused absence.
- 4. Directors, staff members, coaches and administrators will work together to help the student achieve a fair solution.

#### Here are some common conflicts and solutions:

Conflict: Athletic practice or activity meets at the same time as an after-school rehearsal

Solution: With prior approval, split the time between the rehearsal and the practice. Speak to the director and the coach beforehand.

Conflict: Athletic practice or activity meets at the same time as a performance.

Solution: Student attends the concert.

Conflict: A student has to make up work for a teacher at the same time as an after-school rehearsal.

Solution: Complete rehearsal requirement and then report with a late pass to the make-up session or schedule make-up work for another

day. Rehearsal has priority.

Conflict: A game occurs at the same time as an after-school rehearsal.

Solution: Student participates in the game and has the opportunity to make up 100% rehearsal grade by doing individual practice after school, learning seminar, or lunch, under teacher supervision.

Conflict: A game occurs at the same time as a performance.

Solution: Student is highly encouraged to attend the performance for an academic grade; however the student reserves the right to choose. A <u>Performing Arts Absence Form</u> is due from students who choose to attend the game or extracurricular activity at least four weeks prior to the event. Students will have the opportunity to make up 70% of the concert grade.

#### **Evaluation Components**

#### • 50% Musical performance and instrumental technique

following instructions, rehearsal discipline and skills, concert/rehearsal attendance and daily participation, technique evaluations (tone, intonation, articulation, expression, rhythmic accuracy, dynamics, and tempo).

After-school rehearsals affect the student's grade in the same manner as class periods.

#### 25% Concert Performances

Students should be aware of the attendance- and make-up policies enumerated elsewhere in this handbook.

#### 25% Music Fundamentals

Music theory, sight reading, rhythm reading, and/or vocabulary quizzes

Percentages will be converted to letter grades as specified by FCPS. Quality points may be used to compute final grades in accordance with FCPS- and SLHS policy.

Biweekly progress reports will be sent electronically.

#### **IBMYP**

Students will complete the MYP requirements as mandated by the school.

Chamber Music (Quartet, quintet, etc.) is an extra activity sponsored by Mr. Baldwin and the Orchestra Program. These are voluntary ensembles comprised of students who enjoy performing music for the small ensemble.

#### **Ensemble Seating**

Students will be seated according to their performance level and the needs of the ensemble early in the school year. Students may be reseated during the year should the needs of the ensemble require that.

#### Required Auditions

All students in Chamber Orchestra are required either to audition for Senior Regional Orchestra or All-District XII Orchestra.

#### String Buddies

Students in the Symphonic and Chamber Orchestras have the opportunity to tutor students in the Langston Hughes MS Orchestra. This program will be available to students depending on the instrumentation and needs of the Hughes program. This will count for CAS hours, and more information will be available soon.

#### Spring Trip

The instrumental music department at SLHS will take a combined spring trip April 16-18, 2015. The estimated cost is \$600 per student. See the trip handout (coming in late September) for more information.

#### Orchestra Letters and Pins

A student may earn the orchestra award letter. Award sheets will be collected at the end of each year. Students must keep their own records. The forms for obtaining a letter or pin are available on Blackboard.com.

#### Blackboard

Orchestra news, announcements, assignments, handouts, and forms will be available on blackboard. You are required to access blackboard and can do so through the South Lakes homepage: <a href="http://www.fcps.edu">http://www.fcps.edu</a> by clicking on the FCPS 24-7 Learning icon.

### **Orchestra Course Response Sheet**

Please complete this form and return it to Mr. Baldwin by <u>26 September 2014</u>. Returning this form on time completes your first homework assignment.

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EMERGENCY CARE INFORMATION
In case of an emergency, the school staff will contact 911.
Every attempt will be made to contact a parent, a guardian, or a designated emergency contact.

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\* Please remember to sign page 2.

SS/SE-3 (4/14)



EMERGENCY CARE INFORMATION
In case of an emergency, the school staff will contact 911.
Every attempt will be made to contact a parent, a guardian, or a designated emergency contact.

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ENROLLING PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_

# FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS) PARTICIPATION POLICY STUDENT ACTIVITIES 2014 -2015

#### Introduction

Extracurricular activities, co-curricular requirements, and interscholastic athletic programs, collectively "Student Activities", are a part of the total school program and provide opportunities for students to supplement their classroom experiences. Participation in student activities is a privilege, not a right. School administrators may declare a student ineligible to participate in Student Activities in total or in part, to include any performance or representation of the school or FCPS, for inappropriate conduct regardless of whether that conduct occurs during the school day, evenings, weekends, or holidays. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to conduct in violation of: rules and agreements established between students and their coaches, sponsors, or teachers; a school's local student behavior guidelines; VHSL rules; or the current version of FCPS Regulation 2601, Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R). Students may exercise the complaint procedures in SR&R to express disagreement with decisions regarding participation in student activities; however, a school administrator's decision to declare a student ineligible to participate in Student Activities will not be delayed while the student pursues his or her complaint right.

Coaches and sponsors will distribute activity rules and policies at the beginning of each season and may supplement those rules and policies thereafter, as appropriate. Coaches and sponsors will discuss and clarify their expectations regarding school-wide participation policies and the particular activity's rules and commitments. Students are required to comply with these rules and, may forfeit their privilege to participate if they violate those rules or this policy.

Co-curricular requirements that occur outside regular school hours as extensions of classes will have written procedures governing graded, alternative assignments. These written procedures will be included in course handouts, syllabi, and/or grading design. Should a student be declared ineligible to represent the school at public performances and/or events, these alternative assignments will replace public, outside regular school hours requirements associated with the class. As such, the student will suffer no academic penalty as a result of being declared ineligible to participate.

#### Virginia High School League Eligibility

The eligibility of any student who is reassigned to a different school following disciplinary proceedings for prohibited conduct and who seeks to participate in any activity, including interscholastic athletics, governed by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) is subject to:

- SR&R.
- Compliance with VHSL rules.
- Minimum 30-school day waiting period beginning with the first date on which the student began attending classes at the school of reassignment.
- No participation in practices during the waiting period and no same-season waivers.
- Approval of the principal of the school of reassignment, including verification that the student is in good standing. The student's eligibility is neither assured nor guaranteed but, rather, is dependent on the student's positive conduct and citizenship. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the process of securing VHSL eligibility in order to participate in VHSL activities.
- For further information regarding VHSL eligibility and activities, see the VHSL website, www.vhsl.org.

#### Section A.

#### Alcohol, Tobacco, Smoking Devices, Other Drugs and Steroids

#### Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs and Performance Enhancing Steroids

Students will not participate in Student Activities if they violate the provisions of this policy related to alcohol, tobacco, smoking devices (to include nicotine vapor products, alternative nicotine products, electronic cigarettes and Hookah pens; all of which are collectively referred to herein as "tobacco products") other drugs, and performance enhancing steroids.

- Students may not possess, use, sell, give, or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any illegal drug or alcoholic beverage, the possession of which is prohibited by law.
- Possession or use of any tobacco product is prohibited.

- Students are expected not to put themselves in compromising situations where illegal drugs are present, or where alcohol or tobacco products are being offered to, or used, by under aged individuals, or where legal drugs (to include prescription medication) are being used illegally or abused. If students are at a party or other event where this is occurring, they are expected to leave or they are subject to being declared ineligible to participate in Student Activities for 15 calendar days.
- If it is determined that a student has unlawfully used performance-enhancing steroids, the student is subject to consequences under VHSL rules, in compliance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-276.3, which in summary bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

#### Mandatory Consequences for the Use or Possession of Tobacco, Other Drugs, and Performance-Enhancing Steroids

#### Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

In addition to any additional consequences detailed in SR&R, students who possess or use alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, or performance-enhancing steroids, whether on or off school property, are subject to the following mandatory consequences related to Student Activities.

#### First offense during a school year:

The student:

- Will be ineligible to participate for 30 calendar days in club events, games, performances, productions, and cocurricular course activities that occur outside school hours and are open to the public.
- Must participate in a Community Services Board (CSB) substance abuse or equivalent assessment (if applicable)
- May practice and attend events (non dress/ performance/compete) unless the student is suspended from school
  or otherwise declared ineligible to participate.
- May try out for new season, unless suspended from school or otherwise declared ineligible to participate.

#### Second offense during a school year:

The student:

- Will be declared ineligible to participate in Student Activities for the remainder of the school year and from all student extracurricular activities and co-curricular course activities that occur outside school hours and are open to the public.
- Must participate in a (CSB) substance abuse or equivalent assessment (if applicable).

#### For performance-enhancing steroids-any offense:

• If it is determined that a student has unlawfully used performance-enhancing steroids, the student is subject to consequences under VHSL rules, in compliance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-276.3, which in summary bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

Students and/or their parents may appeal actions pursuant to this policy taken by a coach, sponsor, or teacher. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities or other administrator as designated by the principal. The second level of appeal is to the Principal. Decisions rendered under this policy cannot be appealed beyond the principal, whose decision is final. School officials will send a written decision to the parent within two school days of the appeal.

Students charged with a crime in the community that are required to be reported to the principal by Court officials, or for crimes involving violence, tobacco, alcohol, or any other prohibited substances may be declared ineligible to participate in Student Activities unless or until the charges are dismissed or the student is found not guilty. Students must promptly report any such charges to the coach, sponsor, or teacher who will present the facts as known to the school administrator. Failure to report such a charge may result in a student being declared ineligible to participate in - Student Activities for the remainder of the school year. In the event the charges are dismissed or the student is judged not guilty, the student shall be reinstated in Student Activities.

#### Section B

#### General Student Standards of Conduct

#### Other Behaviors

Students may not participate in Student Activities if they engage in other prohibited conduct as outlined in FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601 and the Code of Virginia.

• Students suspended from school (in-school or out-of-school suspension) will not be permitted to participate in Student Activities while suspended.

- Students assigned detention by teachers and/or administrators must report the detention to their coach, sponsor, or co-curricular teacher. The coach, sponsor, or co-curricular teacher will determine any additional action to be taken according to the activity rules given to students.
- Students will not engage in hazing or harassment. Where such misconduct results in bodily injury to a student, offender(s) are subject to criminal prosecution and to disciplinary consequences outlined in SR&R, in accordance with Virginia law. School officials may recommend suspension and/or expulsion in any case of hazing or harassment, and students who violate this rule will lose participation privileges for Student Activities for the remainder of the school year.

#### Attendance Policy

Students must be present in school and in good standing the entire day in order to be eligible to participate in any
after-school Student Activities scheduled on that day. Exceptions to this standard may be made with the prior
approval of the principal or her/his designee.

#### Consequences and Procedures when Students Violate the FCPS Participation Policy

If the school determines that a student who is participating in Student Activities has violated the terms of this policy, the student will be subject to consequences. Prior to making such a determination and imposing any consequence, the coach, sponsor, teacher, and/or school official shall give the student the opportunity to explain his/her actions

The school administration shall record in writing the factors that lead to its conclusion, shall stipulate the consequence(s) to be administered, and shall recommend other interventions, such as a CSB assessment, if applicable.

Students and/or their parents may appeal actions pursuant to this policy taken by the coach, sponsor, or teacher. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities or other administrator designated by the principal. The second level of appeal is to the Principal. Decisions rendered under this policy cannot be appealed beyond the principal, whose decision is final. The school administration will send a written decision to the parent within two school days of the appeal hearing.

Students charged with a crime in the community may be suspended from participation in all Student Activities unless or until the charges are dismissed or the student is found not guilty. Students must report any such incidents to the coach, sponsor, or teacher, who will present the facts as known to the school administrator. Failure to report such an incident may result in exclusion from participation in these Student Activities for the remainder of the school year. In the event the charges are dismissed, or the student is adjudged not guilty, the student shall be reinstated in Student Activities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE 2014-2015

We have read and acknowledge receipt of the Student Participation Policy
For Student Activities

Student's Printed Name	
Student's Signature	Grade
Parent's/Guardian's Signature	Date