

South County Secondary School



Band Handbook 2008-2009

South County Secondary School
8501 Silverbrook Rd.
Lorton, VA 22079
Band Room: 703.446.1990/1991

Who's Who

SCSS Music Department Staff

Director of Bands

Alan Johnson (Alan.Johnson@fcps.edu)

- ♪ Symphonic Band - HS
- ♪ Concert Band - HS
- ♪ Percussion Class - HS, MS
- ♪ Indoor Drum Line
- ♪ Marching Stallions

MS Band Director

Tracy Magwire (Tracy.Magwire@fcps.edu)

- ♪ Advanced Band - MS
- ♪ Beginning/Intermediate Band - MS
- ♪ Music Participation Lab - MS
- ♪ Jazz Band - HS, MS
- ♪ Marching Stallions

Orchestra Director

Latoya Lamons-Slocumb

Choral Director

Alan Reed

Guitar Director

Stephen Ward

SCSS Band Boosters

- ♪ Co-Presidents: Marilyn Mutchler and Gay Van Beek
- ♪ Co-Vice-Presidents: Liz Batchelder and Joyce Belyea
- ♪ VP MS: Deb Boullianne
- ♪ Secretary: Kathy Brown
- ♪ Treasurer: Marianne Ofsonka

Band Courses

Middle School

Beginning/Intermediate Band

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance/Preparation for Advanced Band and HS Concert Band
Prerequisite	Interview with MS Band Director

Students will be given basic instruction on band instruments. There will be strong emphasis on the fundamentals of sound production on the student's selected instrument, embouchure, hand position, rhythm, note reading, etc. Outside-of-school rehearsals will be required and the group will have some public performances.

Advanced Band

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance/Preparation for Concert and Symphonic Bands
Prerequisite	Interview or audition with MS Band Director

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 some public performances.

SC Jazz Ensemble

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance/preparation for the Stallion Jazz Band
Prerequisite	Audition or recommendation - MS Band Director

Students receive an intense study of Jazz and Symphonic literature. Students will be required to attend weekly after-school rehearsals and make public performances. These students should be involved in a Concert Band.

MS Percussion Ensemble

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Establish well-rounded advanced percussion players
Prerequisite	Interview - Director of Bands

Students will learn specific percussion techniques and different styles of music. Styles will include: Concert percussion, jazz, jazz drum set, Latin and percussion ensemble. They are required to learn all areas of percussion instruments. The class will include: Ensemble performance, Concert Band performances, solos, writing music and improvisation. This course will include all levels of students from beginner to advanced.

High School

Concert Band

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance/Preparation for Symphonic Band
Prerequisite	Interview or audition with Director of Bands

Students will be given basic instruction on band instruments. There will be strong emphasis on the fundamentals of sound production on the student's selected instrument, embouchure, hand position, rhythm, note reading, etc. Students will receive intense study of band literature. Outside-of-school rehearsals will be required and the group will have some public performances. These students will develop technical skills and the ability to perform exceptionally. Members from this ensemble may participate in The Marching Stallions.

Symphonic Band

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance of Symphonic Literature
Prerequisite	Audition or recommendation - Director of Bands

As the premiere symphonic ensemble at South County Secondary School, the students will perform on an advanced level and should expect after-school performances and rehearsals. **Participation in the Marching Stallions is required for all Symphonic Band members unless you are enrolled and participating in a Fall Varsity High School League sport (Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Golf or Field Hockey).** Those students participating in a VHSL Sport may still be a member of the Symphonic Band but will have the additional requirement of a recital due at the end of the first quarter. This class is for the most dedicated of Symphonic students.

Stallion Jazz

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees required)
Objective	Performance
Prerequisite	Audition or recommendation - Director of Bands

This is the premiere performing jazz ensemble at South County Secondary School. These students will explore an advanced level of Jazz and Symphonic Music. These students will perform regularly and rehearse after-school weekly. **Participation in the Marching Stallions and a concert band is required for all Stallion Jazz members unless you are enrolled and participating in a Fall Varsity High School League sport (Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Golf or Field Hockey).** Those students participating in a VHSL Sport may still be a member of the Jazz Band but will have the additional requirement of a recital due at the end of the first quarter. This course is only for the most dedicated musician.

Indoor Drum Line - Mixed Ensemble

One Year Course	1 Credit (Fees and mandatory travel required)
Objective	Establish well-rounded advanced percussion players
Prerequisite	Interview - Director of Bands

Students will learn specific percussion techniques and different styles of music. Styles will include: Marching Stallions techniques, concert percussion, jazz, jazz drum set, Latin and percussion ensemble. They are required to learn all areas of percussion instruments. The class will include: Ensemble performance, Concert Band performances, solos, writing music and improvisation. This course will include all levels of students from beginner to advanced.

Fees

In order to maintain uniforms and equipment, and achieve the goals and objectives of each course, a participation fee is necessary. The fee is to be paid at the beginning of the year with checks made out to SOUTH COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL. Students on the Free & Reduced Lunch Program should discuss these fees with their band director. The SCSS Band Boosters sponsor fundraising events to help students defray the cost of their band fees and/or the Spring Trip. Students who qualify for financial aid may apply for a limited amount of matching funds. Awards of these funds will be determined by the Band Director with oversight by the Band Booster Committee. Any debts not paid will be turned over to the school. Students will not be allowed to purchase parking passes or walk at graduation without fulfilling their financial obligations. The fees include the following:

Uniforms

High School - \$125

- ♪ Sheet music for each ensemble (to be returned in excellent condition)
- ♪ Method book (to be returned in excellent condition)
- ♪ Stands and most rehearsal equipment
- ♪ Men - tuxedo (jacket, pants & shirt), tie, cummerbund (students will provide nice **black** shoes and socks)*
- ♪ Women - black dress (students will provide hose and nice **black** shoes)

Middle School - \$75

- ♪ Sheet music for each ensemble (to be returned in excellent condition)
- ♪ Method book (to be returned in excellent condition)
- ♪ Stands and most rehearsal equipment
- ♪ Men - tux pants, tux shirt, tie, cummerbund (students will provide nice **black** shoes and socks)*
- ♪ Women - white shirt, black skirt (students will provide hose and nice **black** shoes)

*Please note: All students are required to dry clean their uniforms after each performance in order to maintain quality.

Instrument Rental

- ♪ Instruments such as low brass/winds and F horns are available for rental through the school for a nominal fee. Directors will provide forms to students during the first week of class.
- ♪ All percussionists are required to pay an annual fee which is used to maintain school-owned percussion equipment. This fee does not cover replacement due to instrument abuse.

Competitions, Festivals & Other Events

There are other competitions, festivals and events that South County Band groups may attend during the year. These programs are subject to change annually and are selected by the Director of Bands. Parents will be notified as events are chosen. The students may be required to pay travel expenses and/or part of registration fees for any events they attend.

Attendance

Classroom

Excused Absences

- ♪ Check with section leader for anything missed.
- ♪ Check bulletin board for upcoming events or changes.
- ♪ Extended absence may have an effect on your section seating.
- ♪ Excused absences may include family emergencies or illness and must be accompanied by a note.

Excused Tardies

- ♪ Please enter room quietly.
- ♪ Even excused tardies must not become habitual.

Unexcused Absences

- ♪ Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. Refer to the SR&R handbook for consequences.

Unexcused Tardies

- ♪ Refer to the SR&R handbook for consequences.
- ♪ Unexcused tardies communicate to the director and the class that you do not want to be there and a schedule change is in order. This class is only for those who want to be there and are there to work. If you are continually late you bring the rest of the group down.

After School Commitments

There will be after school rehearsals, as needed, to prepare for performances.

- ♪ All rehearsals are required.
- ♪ After school rehearsals are an extension of this class and are a part of your grade.

- ♪ All SR&R policies apply.
- ♪ Any student participating in more than one school-related activity will abide by the established VHSL guidelines. Time must be split equally between the two activities.
- ♪ Concerts are always to be attended over practices, just as games/competitions are to be attended over rehearsals. If a game/competition and a concert fall on the same night, the concert takes precedence. You are receiving a grade for band, not for sports.

Band Grading Policies

Class Policy

50 % Tests, Quizzes & Rehearsals

Types of Tests & Quizzes

- ♪ Taped in class
- ♪ Taped on your own
- ♪ Played in class
- ♪ Played individually for Director
- ♪ Written
- ♪ Rehearsal Techniques

50% Attendance and Participation

- ♪ Punctuality
- ♪ Productivity
- ♪ Professionalism

Extra Credit: Attendance at Outside Musical Performances

- ♪ 2 Concerts (can be free)
- ♪ Suggestions will be posted
- ♪ Bring program from concert
- ♪ Participation in fundraising, cleanup, etc.

Example of An 'A' Student

- ♪ Always works to the best of his/her ability in daily rehearsals to obtain the highest in performance standards.
- ♪ Always prepared with music, fingerings and good rehearsal techniques.
- ♪ Able to work effectively with teachers and classmates and can work independently or with members of a section when needed. Can function as a leader if necessary.
- ♪ Always on time and attentive.
- ♪ Always attends after school rehearsals and performances.
- ♪ Always has correct music, pencil and equipment.

This is the type of active participation expected of an "A" student, however, it is not the entire criteria for any grade.

Student Tasks

Ensemble & Practice Rooms

Any section that uses these facilities must re-stack all chairs and place all stands back in order (that might mean back to the band room!). Please take care of our space!

Instrument Storage Room Policy

In order to keep your instrument in the Instrument Storage Room, you must do the following:

- ♪ Place your name, phone, and address on outside of case with neat, large print.
- ♪ Use **ONLY** the locker and lock issued by a director.
- ♪ Keep your locker neat and free of trash.
- ♪ NEVER leave instruments on the floor.
- ♪ Be out of storage room *before* class starts.
- ♪ Keep the instrument storage room clean. It is as much a statement about the quality of our program as the band room itself.

Equipment Maintenance and Repair

- ♪ If something is in need of repair, please inform a band director. Students are **not** to attempt to fix school equipment.
- ♪ If equipment breaks because of student abuse, the student will be required to pay for replacement.
- ♪ When packing equipment, be sure that an adult is near to supervise.
- ♪ Instruments such as timpani and keyboard instruments are not tables; do not lean or place items on them.

Percussion Responsibilities

- ♪ Respect all equipment.
- ♪ Non-percussionists are not to touch or play SCSS instruments. If you see someone in violation ask them nicely to stop, or inform a Director.
- ♪ There will be **NO** throwing, or misuse of school mallets. If caught, you will purchase your own to use.
- ♪ Be ready to play at the downbeat of the rehearsal. Arrive in time to tune your drum, set up your equipment, and prepare yourself for rehearsal.

Additional Information

- ♪ When sectionals are called, students will be given 1-2 weeks notice and are required to attend. If an emergency sectional is called students are asked to be flexible with their schedules.
- ♪ Do not talk or play unless instructed by a director, student teacher, or section leader.
- ♪ Respect your section leaders.
- ♪ If a student needs a ride to a rehearsal, game, or competition he/she is asked to call his/her section leader, or refer to the phone list.
- ♪ Students should always remember that they represent South County Secondary School and are setting examples for the rest of the school.

Marching Stallions

Marching Stallions camp/marching stallions participation is required for all Stallion Jazz and Symphonic Band students unless you are enrolled and participating in a Fall Varsity High School League sport (Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Golf or Field Hockey). Those students participating in a VHSL Sport will have the additional requirement of a recital due at the end of the first quarter. Marching Stallions is optional for Concert Band students but all are encouraged to join this dynamic group. If you participate in a varsity sport at South County you should discuss this with the Director of Bands.

The Marching Stallions Season begins with Summer Band Camp in August and continues through the end of the football season. The Marching Stallions perform at all home varsity football games, travel to select away games and participate in at least four marching band competitions throughout the season. Marching Stallions competitions take place on Saturdays. When the football team has a winning season and there are play-off games, these games are held on Fridays or Saturdays.

Practices, Games, and Competitions

- ♪ Students are required to attend all practices, games & competitions. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!
- ♪ Practices are on Tuesday & Thursday from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.
- ♪ Students should arrive at all practices 15-20 minutes early & be ready to play at the downbeat.
- ♪ Students will be given breaks throughout the rehearsal & should be ready to play again at the downbeat.
- ♪ Students should arrive at all games and competitions on time. Upon arrival you are expected to assist with:
 - Repair and cleaning of instruments
 - Warm-up
 - Pack equipment (competitions/away games)
 - Take equipment to field (home games/PIT)
- ♪ Following performances at home games, the Marching Stallions will return to the bleachers. The Pit will move all the Pit equipment inside, where it will be set up for the next rehearsal.
- ♪ Following performances at competitions, each student will be responsible for packing his/her equipment onto the bus/truck from which it came. Students should then assist the Pit and Guard in loading their equipment.

Summer Marching Stallions Camp

Marching Stallions Camp begins four weeks before school starts. The first week, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., will be required for the Drum Line, Color Guard, drum majors and section leaders. Thursday and Friday of the first week, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., new marchers will report to camp. Weeks two and three are from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., the fourth week from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Attendance at Marching Stallions Camp is mandatory for all Marching Stallions. If you need to miss practice you must have The Band Directors permission in advance.

Fees

The Marching Stallions Fee is determined yearly. The fee covers marching band expenses that include show design, additional staff, equipment, registrations, uniforms and transportation. Details of Marching Stallions expenses and fees are provided before Summer Band Camp and payment is due on the first day of camp.

Indoor Drum Line & Winter Guard

Indoor Drum Line

While Drum Line is a full year elective class, the official season begins with rehearsals in December, followed by Saturday competitions from February through April. Auditions are required. Drum Line will rehearse several nights a week and may rehearse Saturday afternoons when there are no competitions. The Drum Line Fee will be determined yearly. Fundraising participation is strongly encouraged.

Students involved with Indoor Drum Line will learn and perform as a Marching Percussion Unit. The show is written and designed to be performed indoors. The most important aspect of this ensemble is to have a great attitude.

Fall Color Guard & Winter Guard

♫ Please Note: The Fall Color Guard is included when reference is made to "Marching Stallions."

Fall Color Guard

The Fall Color Guard is the visual ensemble of the Marching Stallions. Members learn equipment skills on flag, rifle, and saber, as well as dance skills such as jazz and ballet. Auditions are held in the late spring and practices are held throughout the summer. Members must attend Summer Band Camp and must follow the same practice schedule as the Marching Stallions. The Color Guard is a part of the Marching Stallions therefore, all Marching Stallions rules apply regarding attendance, rehearsals, fund-raisers, reporting times, etc., unless changed by the Color Guard Instructor.

Winter Color Guard

Winter Guard is an extra-curricular activity that is held November through April each year. The members perform a 5-minute show on the gym floor to recorded music, using equipment, dance and movement to illustrate a theme or a concept. Auditions are held in November and rehearsals are held at least two nights a week, for three hours, through the end of the season. Competitions are held on Saturdays -- the exact schedule is approved in January. Students must attend all practices and performances. Please refer to the attendance section for specific information. It is expected that Guard members participate in at least two fund-raisers during each season.

Awards

The band program of SCSS strives to set a level of excellence for its students. Outstanding band students are recognized at the end of the year Awards Concert. The awards presented include the following:

Varsity Letter

Any student that earns an "A" in the Symphonic Band for the school year will receive a varsity letter.

Director Awards

This award is given at the discretion of the band director for excellence, spirit, dedication, etc.

Band Voted Awards (MS & HS)

Band students recognize the accomplishments of their peers by voting for the Most Outstanding and Most Improved band member in each band.

John Phillip Sousa Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding member of the Symphonic Band. The award is voted by the band, but is at the discretion of the band director.

Louis Armstrong Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding member of the Stallion Jazz Band. The award is voted by the band, but is at the discretion of the band director.

Patrick Gilmore Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding underclass member of the Symphonic Band. The award is voted by the band, but is at the discretion of the band director.

Generic Calendar

August

- ♫ Summer Band Camp (Marching Stallions)

September

- ♫ Marching Stallions Season
- ♫ Tag Day Fundraiser (ALL high school music students participate)
- ♫ Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions
 - Open to all FCPS students playing orchestral instruments. Auditions are in late September and the event is held in early November. Top conductors from across the country are brought in for two days of rehearsal and an evening concert. Acceptance into the SRO qualifies students for the All-State Orchestra auditions.

October

- ♫ Marching Stallions Season

November

- ♪ Marching Stallions Season
- ♪ Marching Stallions Banquet
- ♪ Fall Concert
 - Percussion Ensemble
 - Intermediate Band & Advanced Band
 - SC Jazz Ensemble
 - Concert Band & Symphonic Band
 - Stallion Jazz
- ♪ Registration for All-District Band Auditions
 - All students in the band program, with the exception of guitarists, bassists and pianists, are encouraged to audition for the All-District Band. Registration is done through SCSS and requirements and fees are posted in the Band Room. Qualification for the All-District Band may qualify a student to audition for the All-State Band.

December

- ♪ All-District Band Auditions
- ♪ Tiny Tots Concert at SCSS (Symphonic Band & Stallion Jazz)
 - Concert is at SCSS during the school day for pre-school & day care children. This show features the combined efforts of the Choral, Band and Drama Departments.
- ♪ Drum Line & Winter Guard Rehearsals Begin

January

- ♪ Drum Line & Winter Guard Rehearsals
- ♪ Band Clinics - (All Bands)

February

- ♪ Pre-Festival Concert at SCSS
 - Percussion Ensemble
 - Intermediate Band & Advanced Band
 - SC Jazz Ensemble
 - Concert Band & Symphonic Band
 - Stallion Jazz
- ♪ All-District Band
 - Participating in All-District Band is a very high honor. Students selected for the All-District Band participate in two days of concentrated rehearsals during the first week in February, ending with a concert on Saturday evening.
- ♪ District 10 Solo & Ensemble Registration
 - All band students, with the exception of guitarists, bassists and pianists, are encouraged to register for the Solo & Ensemble Festival. Requirements are posted in the Band Room.

♪ Virginia All-State Band Auditions

- A successful audition into this band ranks as the highest individual honor a student can achieve. Auditions for the All-State Band are usually held the third week-end in February at James Madison University. A student must earn a high enough ranking from their All-District Band or Senior Regional Orchestra audition and attend that event, in order to qualify for Virginia's All-State Band audition.

♪ Drum Line & Winter Guard Season

March

♪ District 10 Band Festival

- Intermediate, Advanced, Concert & Symphonic Bands performs at this annual festival, which is held on a rotating basis at three schools within District 10. The students perform for ratings by nationally acclaimed concert band judges. They also receive a rating for sight-reading. Parents of performing students are strongly encouraged to attend this event. Receiving a 'superior' rating at this festival, combined with a 'superior' rating at a State Marching Stallions Competition, distinguishes the band program as a Virginia Honor Band.

♪ Drum Line & Winter Guard Season

♪ Chantilly Jazz Festival - (SC Jazz & Stallion Jazz)

♪ Spring Trip - HS Bands

- The SCSS Music Department annually sponsors a spring trip for high school band students to participate in competitive band festivals. These trips provide students an opportunity to perform for and see other groups from around the country. The trip destination is chosen annually. This four-day trip usually departs on Wednesday evening returning on Sunday. The trip is chaperoned by Music Boosters parents. The cost of the trip includes transportation by chartered busses, housing, festival costs, breakfast and dinner each day of the trip. Students may help defray the cost by participating in various fund-raisers. The main focus is performance, but there are scheduled events and free time as well. All Fairfax County Public School rules apply to students during the entire duration of the trip.

April

♪ Drum Line & Winter Guard Season

♪ Placement Auditions Begin

- April to August is audition time for placement in the South County band program for the following school year. Dates will be announced. Auditions are scheduled through the SCSS Band Office. Course placement will be made by director's recommendation. Jazz and Symphonic Band auditions will be modeled after All Virginia Band including all major scales, chromatic scale, and sight-reading.

May

♪ Evening of Jazz (SC Jazz Ensemble & Stallion Jazz)

- The Band Boosters sponsor this event as a fund-raiser for the Band Department. The event includes dinner and performances by both Jazz Bands,

June

- ♪ Spring Trip - MS Bands
- ♪ End of the Year Awards Concert (All Bands)
 - This concert allows students and parents to assemble for one last performance of the year. At this time, outstanding members of the band program are recognized.
- ♪ Uniform Collection (All Bands)
 - Following the Awards Concert, all band uniforms are returned. Uniforms must be in good condition. Numbers in the garments must match those assigned to each student at the beginning of the year. If any part of the uniform is lost or damaged beyond repair, students will be responsible for reimbursing the school.
- ♪ Music/Instrument Collection (All Bands)
 - All sheet music is returned to the Band Director at the end of the school year.
 - Instruments rented from the school are also returned at this time