

SRHS MUSIC PROGRAM

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South River High School

Instrumental Music Student Handbook



Mr. Gerald Cavanaugh, Music Director
(Revised 2018)

South River High School Instrumental Music Handbook

Vision Statement

The South River High School Music Program is here to provide a high quality musical education for students to develop skills in the arts, self-discipline through experience and leadership, while creating lasting friendships through serious fun and teamwork.

Goals

- A commitment to consistent excellence in music literacy and 21st century skills.
- To maintain a positive artistic reputation by representing school and local community.
- To achieve excellence through superior ratings at each public performance.
- To build a caring, supportive, and nurturing music program rooted in family values.

Accountability

High School musicians are expected to perform at a level of involvement that demonstrates a responsible, respectful, and engaged mentality, with a focus on success and mutual acceptance of abilities. Guidelines and principles set forth for fine arts activities by this organization will be in effect at all times to promote personal growth and empowerment. Penalties for chemical substance abuse, physical, mental, or emotional abuse will not be tolerated and is subject to the county policies as any in-school activities. All members of the South River High School Music Program are expected to exhibit respect both in and out of performance, camaraderie on and off the field, and developing integrity to build relationships and mentor others.

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all practices and performances on the schedule. Demanding performances require staff is aware of absences and make preparations.
- Student members are expected to inform employers of their schedules well in advance and work out any conflicts. While excused absences include illness and family emergency, family vacations etc., **all** require prior written notice to the director.
- Excellent attendance is essential to provide an enjoyable, quality experience for everyone. Poor attendance may lead to suspension or dismissal from the group.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- **Quiet rehearsals = Loud results.** Respect others by not talking during rehearsals.
- **Prepare schedules and adjust:** unforeseen circumstances will occur.
www.southrivermusic.org = the definitive source for all music related information.
- **Be Punctual for every practice.** Members are ready five minutes before practices, all students are expected to help put away instruments and equipment before leaving.
- **Dress appropriately for rehearsal and performances!** Uniform attire should be ordered following the posted deadlines set by the Uniform Committee. Failure to comply may result in a student's dismissal from a stage/field performance.
- Sectionals are for individual skill practice and will be a focused activity at all ensemble rehearsals. These practices will be run by section leaders or drum majors.

Rehearsal Procedures and Structure

- After school rehearsals follow this rehearsal outline lasting between 2-2.5 hours.
- Orchestra rehearsals will take place after school on Mondays.
- Jazz Band rehearsals will take place after school on Tuesdays.
- Marching/Concert Band rehearsals will take place after school on Wednesdays.
- Additional groups will meet as necessary after school on
- All Dress rehearsals are mandatory and must be attended.

Organization makes for efficient & successful rehearsals...

Rehearsal Outline

- Student preparation and readiness= 5-10 minutes prior to start of rehearsal.
- Ensemble Warm-up, Tuning= 10-15 minutes of rehearsal
- Ensemble Skills and Overview= 10 minutes of rehearsal
- Sectional Break-out work= 45-60 minutes of rehearsal
- Ensemble Rehearsal Review and Reflection= 20-30 minutes

Each person is essential to the ensemble.

As a member of the South River High School Music Program everything you do on *and off* the stage is essential. There are no last chair players, everyone plays, expresses, and thinks as one. To accomplish our goals this requires 100% effort, 110% of the time.

Your Objective is Our Objective: Musical Excellence & Lasting Positive Memories.

Leadership Responsibilities: General (#8 is paramount!)

1. **Exemplify:** Provide good examples through your attitude in and out of rehearsal. An effective leader is a superb role model for performance.
2. **Communicate:** be a liaison between band and Directors and musicians.
3. **Motivate:** how to practice effectively, internalize their music, be available to listen for music checks.
4. **Punctuality and Preparedness:** to rehearsals, double checking, and study together before going on: prepare in advance! This saves time!
5. **Patience:** with members who are really trying but are having difficulty and impart personal anecdotes to help them succeed.
6. **Proactivity:** be approachable to members that are "challenging." Diffuse problems before they reach the Director.
7. **Quality Assurance:** Help your leadership by ensuring that your members have correct and necessary working equipment for all rehearsals and performances: includes proper performance attire.
8. ****Determination:** for excellence throughout at all times. Treat members as you want to be treated and accept nothing less than this most "golden" of rules! **

The Voices of Experience

1. Negativity spreads like a disease! Those who don't know may believe what they hear instead of what they see or know.
2. The group doesn't change as much as you do. The most impressionable of years is the first one. Start it up on the "right foot."
3. Musicians are an emotional group: expect some roller coaster rides. Remember: roller coasters can be a lot of fun too!
4. Everybody reacts to criticism: keep it in perspective. When the group is criticized, we all of us feel its keen sting.
5. There is always room for improvement; constructive input should be demanded; know what to take in, discard the rest.
6. *Bring a solution for every problem! *
7. More drive and spirit in rehearsals means a better performance with fewer mistakes. Don't mistake the forest for the trees.
8. Benefits demand sacrifice: Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
9. **Check & adjust** to situations. You reach farther when flexible, then rigid.
10. Strive to make solutions, not problems...*Gaining without pain isn't gaining.*

The Leadership Hierarchy

This handbook is designed to help you become an effective member of the South River Music Program. Leadership is an essential link in the efficiency of band and orchestra events. Between Directors, Instructors, Drum Majors, Band Lieutenant, Concert Masters, Section Leaders, and Band/Orchestra Councils, will empower others by providing the direction and problem solving to each situation.

Leadership Positions and Responsibilities

I. Student Direction in Band

Ia. Marching Band

- **Senior Drum Major (SDM)**

The Senior Drum Major is the sole student conductor and leader of the Marching Band during the fall athletic band and competitive marching season. His/her duties will begin from the installation of senior class status during the spring before senior year and will conclude at the last day for seniors prior to graduation. The Senior Drum Major works closely with the Music Director, staff, and will create a mutually strong bond with every person in his/her band.

The Senior Drum Major will have expert knowledge of all musical scores for pre-game, stand tunes, half time and post-game at all home football games, as they will be the primary conductor for all music selections. The Senior Drum Major is to always have musical scores, drill charts, and lead sheets on their person at each class and after school rehearsal. The Senior Drum Major will oversee all aspects of marching drill, marching technique, as well as maintain a healthy and focused pace to all rehearsals. Additionally, it is the Senior Drum Major's responsibility to maintain focus on all sideline activities, behaviors, and rate of play in the selected athletic contest to anticipate, prepare, and communicate with their band on the next series of performances while in the stands.

The Senior Drum Major will warm up the marching band before every half time show approximately 10 minutes prior to show time. The Senior Drum Major (SDM) will be present at all rehearsals, band camp, football games, pep rallies, parades, tournaments, and for any ancillary band related events. The SDM will develop a personal and lasting rapport with his/her band mates by communicating with each member of the band, engaging in cheers, motivational sayings, and modeling a respectful, responsible, and engaged set of behaviors that reflect inspiring leaders.

- **Junior Drum Major (JDM)**

The Junior Drum Major will assist with leadership of the marching band during the fall athletic season from August through November, and will serve in supportive capacity for the remainder of the school year. The Junior Drum Major (JDM) will learn and apprentice under the Senior Drum Major and the Music Director in all aspects of band leadership including, but not limited to, conducting, marching commands, sectional rehearsals, conflict resolution, preparing new members for marching band, and overseeing the cadet band program recruitment.

Each JDM is required to attend a Drum Major Academy (DMA) at West Chester University, Kutztown College, or a comparable program of the JDM's choosing prior to their taking command of the marching band in their senior year. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in their replacement as Drum Major. The JDM candidates will go through a rigorous audition process involving these steps during the spring before their junior year:

1. Essay and Letter of Intent
2. Live Interview with a panel of directors, current drum majors, and current band lieutenant.
3. Live conducting audition with the band of "The Star-Spangled Banner."
4. Live commands audition with a select group of current band students.

The JDM will be chosen by the Music Director with input by returning members of the band through ballots, as well as the instructional staff, current junior drum major, band lieutenant, and senior drum major. The final decision is made by graduation.

- **Band Lieutenant (BLT)**

The Band Lieutenant is third in command of the marching band and retains as the official representative of the South River Band throughout the year.

The Band Lieutenant, much like the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, serves as leader in the event of absences of a drum major, while working to organize and collaborate with both drum majors.

The Band Lieutenant's (BLT) main objective is to have mastery knowledge over all things drill related in the marching band competitive shows, pre-game formation, and post-game events. The BLT also will maintain order and attentiveness on the practice field and in performances for the public. With the JDM the BLT will also oversee, facilitate, and appoint any field preparation work, including but not limited to, lining of practice fields, placement of yard markers, podium setup, and ensuring that utility carts are filled with coolers full of fresh ice water, cups, field stakes, measuring tape, string spool, and trash bags.

II. Band Council Elected Positions

- **Band President**

This elected position will be an annual appointment of leadership from a non-directional perspective. The Band President will be a representative of the South River High School Music Department at school or county functions and

events along with the Music Boosters Organization. The Band President will be elected, along with other Band Council membership, each May by current Band members, during the Drum Major/Band Lieutenant audition period. The Band President will be present and report to the Music Boosters Organization at quarterly meetings, and if unable to attend the Band Vice President will fill in, or an otherwise dually appointed representative. The Band President will submit a letter of interest explaining their leadership background and reasoning for seeking appointment to the Band Director during the Drum Major/Band Lieutenant search period. Qualifications for Band President include, but not limited to, excellent academic and musical standing in both Band and core academic courses, prior leadership experience, exemplary communication and interpersonal relationship skills, a desire to see the Band program grow and prosper, and first-hand participation in ongoing recruitment activities.

- **Band Vice President**

This elected position will be an annual appointment of leadership from a non-directional perspective. The Band Vice President will be a representative of the South River High School Music Department at school and/or county functions and events along with the Music Boosters Organization. The Band Vice President will be elected, along with other Band Council membership, each May by current Band members, during the Drum Major/Band Lieutenant audition period. The Band Vice President will attend quarterly Music Booster Organization meetings if the Band President is unable to attend, and report on current Band related events. The primary role of the Band Vice President is to organize, plan, and implement no less than three (3) recruitment events with feeder middle school Band students and make continued efforts at building retention in the South River Band Program from year to year.

- **Band Secretary**

The Band Secretary is a yearly appointed cabinet position by the Music Director by which interested students may interview. The secretary will help to prepare publications for the band including welcome letters, recruitment/interest letters, announcements for morning PA announcers, flyers/posters for band related events around the school community, update and publication of school music calendar, and make public service announcements for yearbook, newsletters, social media, newspapers, and any online resources. The secretary shall also maintain upkeep of news, calendars, and band bulletin boards in D134.

- **Band Historian**

This appointed cabinet position by the Music Director is available annually to A member of the band to record, catalogue, and preserve the institutional knowledge of the events, preparations, and interactions of all those band. The

historian will be responsible for archiving band events in pictorial, video, and/or written forms including, but not limited to blogs, social network, music website, picture board. The Historian will also coordinate with the Yearbook advisor on all pictures, names, and events listed in the yearbook.

- **Band Music Managers**

This appointed cabinet position by the Music Director is available annually to a member of the band and covers all librarian duties involving every aspect of marching and concert band. There will be three (3) managers appointed, one each for woodwind, brass, and percussion music. The Music Manager will collate, organize, place in score order, and maintain all music parts for all sections, as well as inform the Band President and Music Director of copies needed to be made on a weekly basis. To help facilitate making copies the music manager will create a system for making copies and appoint committee members to the music management process.

- **Section Leaders/Captains**

Each section of the Band/Orchestra will have a Director appointed section leader or captain each year. Section leaders will be appointed for any of the following reasons and must be members of the Band/Orchestra class: trustworthiness, exemplary character and leadership skills, excellent musicianship, and a section leader may not necessarily be the highest caliber player, nor a senior, but may be open to anyone sophomore through senior. Captains will be appointed to sections such as color guard and percussion, and co-captains may be necessary due to the size and complexity.

- **Band Concert Master**

The Band Concert Master shall lead the band in all tuning practices prior to Rehearsals and staged performances. They shall be appointed to this position as a result of a successfully completed seating audition each semester, and shall be the 1st chair clarinetist. The concert master will also lead the band in the tuning process during all band classes and after school rehearsals. Should there be an absence of a principal oboe in the Symphony, the Band concert master shall also assume the role of primary tuning responsibilities. Consistent attendance is required of the concert master at all rehearsals.

III. Orchestra Council Elected Positions & Annual Appointments

- **Orchestra President**

This elected position will be an annual appointment of leadership from a non-directional perspective. The Orchestra President will be a representative of the South River High School Music Department at school or county functions and events along with the Music Boosters Organization. The Orchestra President will be elected, along with other Orchestra Council membership, each May by current Orchestra members, during the Graduation preparation

period. The Orchestra President will be present and report to the Music Boosters Organization at quarterly meetings, and if unable to attend the Orchestra Vice President will fill in, or an otherwise dually appointed representative. The Orchestra President will submit a letter of interest explaining their leadership background and reasoning for seeking appointment to the Director during the graduation preparation period. Qualifications for Orchestra President include, but not limited to, excellent academic and musical standing in both Band and core academic courses, prior leadership experience, exemplary communication and interpersonal relationship skills, a desire to see the Band program grow and prosper, and first-hand participation in ongoing recruitment activities.

- **Orchestra Vice President**

This elected position will be an annual appointment of leadership from a non-directional perspective. The Orchestra Vice President will be a representative of the South River High School Music Department at school and/or county functions and events along with the Music Boosters Organization. The Orchestra Vice President will be elected, along with other Orchestra Council membership, each May by current members, during Graduation preparation period. The Orchestra Vice President will attend quarterly Music Booster Organization meetings if the Orchestra President is unable to attend, and report on current Orchestra related events. The primary role of the Orchestra Vice President is to organize, plan, and implement no less than three (3) yearly recruitment events with feeder middle school Orchestra students and make continued efforts at building annual retention in the South River Orchestra Program.

- **Orchestra Secretary**

The Orchestra Secretary is a yearly appointed cabinet position by the Music Director which interested students may interview. The secretary will help to prepare publications for the band including welcome letters, recruitment/interest letters, announcements for morning PA announcers, flyers/posters for band related events around the school community, update and publication of school music calendar, and make public service announcements for yearbook, newsletters, social media, newspapers, and any online resources. The secretary shall also maintain upkeep of news, calendars, and orchestra bulletin boards in D134.

- **Orchestra Historian**

This appointed cabinet position by the Music Director is available annually to member of the Orchestra to record, catalogue, and preserve the institutional knowledge of the events, preparations, and interactions of those in Orchestra. The historian will be responsible for archiving events in pictorial, video, and/or written forms including, but not limited to blogs, social network, music website, picture board. The Historian will coordinate with the

Yearbook advisor to ensure proper documentation of Orchestra students names and events with pictures in the yearbook.

- **Orchestra Music Managers**

This appointed cabinet position by the Music Director is available annually to a member of the Orchestra and covers all librarian duties involving every aspect of marching and concert band. There will be two (2) managers appointed, one each for high string and low string music. The Music Manager will collate, organize, place in score order, and maintain all music parts for all sections, as well as inform the Concert Master and Music Director of copies needed to be made on a weekly basis and to ensure proper bowings for all parts. No parts may be distributed until bowings have been assigned. To help facilitate making copies the music manager will create a system for making copies and appoint committee members to the music management process.

- **Orchestra Concert Master (Audition-based)**

The Orchestra Concert Master shall lead the band in all tuning practices prior to rehearsals and stage performances. They shall be appointed to this position because of a successfully completed seating audition each semester, and shall be the 1st chair 1st violinist. The concert master will also lead the band in the tuning process during all Orchestra classes and after school rehearsals. Should there be an absence of a principal oboe in the Symphony Project, the Orchestra concert master shall also assume the role of primary tuning responsibilities. Consistent attendance is required of the concert master at all after school rehearsals.

- **Orchestra Associate Concert Master (Audition-based)**

The associate concert master shall have the second highest score of violins resulting from the semester seating auditions. As per contemporary orchestral traditions, the associate concert master will first chair, first desk, of the 2nd violin section.

- **SGA Representative**

This student representative shall be elected by quorum or majority vote by the members of both band and orchestra classes. These dually appointed representatives shall have voting privileges and attend all in-school Student Government Association meetings. In the event the representative is unable to attend meetings, an alternate representative shall serve in their stead, and will be elected by the second highest ballot numbers cast in an open election.

Rules and Guidelines

General Information: Summer Band Camp

1. The South River Marching Band Camp is held annually during the first 2 weeks of August

2. The South River Marching Band Camp is a day camp, Monday through Friday:
Week 1: 8am-3pm
Week 2: 3pm-8pm
3. The camp will be held on the South River High School campus.
4. This camp is a mandatory for every member in the marching band. If students schedule doesn't allow full attendance for the ten days, each student attend for some portion of time. Reviews of availability will be conducted by the Director.
5. A Camp Fee of \$100.00 (effective August 2014) is applied to all students regardless of schedule availability to cover the overhead costs of operations.
6. Students are to remain on site for the entirety of the camp period. This is a **NO (0%) TOLERANCE POLICY**. Any student(s) found in violation of this policy will be immediately disciplined to the highest degree both by AACPS standards and the South River Band Program. As a county-sponsored educational activity, all standard county rules apply to this policy. This measure ensures student safety and well-being and to help foster a safe, fun, responsible learning environment.
7. Students may participate in camp activities only during scheduled camp operating hours and in designated camp locations (i.e. classrooms, field, etc.). Students found in violation of this rule during camp hours will be reprimanded to school administration and subject to the same consequences as any other county-sponsored school event. Letters and communication will be made with parents after the first offense, and any subsequent violations may be subject to dismissal from camp activities (see Item 3 under "Band Camp Rules and Guidelines.")
8. Camp activities will involve musical pedagogy, precision Corps-style marching technique, and team-building strategies designed to build teamwork, sportsmanship, and collective skill sets meant for outdoor sporting events, competitions and parades. These activities occur 75% of the time outdoors, on grass or turf fields, where summer/fall weather conditions are imminent to all students. Proper measures should be taken that all medical information, medications, and other conditions be disclosed to the administrating nurse on site for camp and the camp's director. Other measures such as appropriate clothing, sunscreen, and other preventative efforts be taken to ensure student well-being.
9. Proper footwear and clothing should be observed at all times while at camp. Baggy, heavy, seasonally-inappropriate, overly-revealing, or any other clothing deemed unacceptable for wear during regular school days, as stipulated in the Anne Arundel County Code of Conduct, will not be permitted at camp.
10. Proper footwear is necessary for accurate skill development as well as personal health and hygiene. Sandals, open-toed shoes, flip-flops, bare-feet, etc. are not permitted at camp. Students found in violation of this

policy will be asked to provide an alternate form of foot apparel. If they are unable to provide such alternatives, then an alternate pair of footwear will be loaned to that student for the day. If a student is non-compliant with the request to dawn new footwear, they may be subject to disciplinary action, or dismissal from camp that day.

11. Nutrition and hydration are paramount concerns for healthy and productive students while at camp. Eating appropriate meals before and during camp is expected. Likewise, it is highly recommended that water, and other natural fruit juices be consumed on a regular basis while at camp. Sodas, energy drinks, teas, coffees, and other assorted beverages are highly discouraged given the nature of the work that is done while at camp, and it is suggested that parents ensure their child brings adequate food and beverages to camp every day. Students will not be permitted to have sodas or other beverages except water, Gatorade/Powerade, or fruit juice, while on the field.
12. Meal order forms will be available on selected days during camp. Students are encouraged to participate in these meal orders, but it is not required. If a child has any food-related allergy, parents/guardians must disclose this information to the administrating nurse on site and camp director prior to camp.
13. Cleanup and organization of fields, classrooms, cafeteria, and other school facilities must be upheld always. Sections, or individual students will be asked at the end of rehearsals to put away all trash found in the area and to always leave a location looking better than it was found. Failure to follow this policy may result in disciplinary actions by the director and notifying parents.

General Information: Marching Band After School Rehearsals

1. Regular season practices will take place every Wednesday after school from 2:45-5pm. After school practices are part of every classroom student's grade, as it is an extension of the classroom environment and takes the place of regularly assigned written homework or projects. Therefore, every student in the band class is expected to be at these regularly scheduled rehearsals to best prepare for our public performance obligations: football games, competitions, parades.
2. If a student is a member of the band class and participating in an athletic team, or other extra-curricular club or organization, they must fulfill their obligations to the "fair-share" policy which states: any student wishing to participate in organizations that meet in conjunction with regularly scheduled after school band rehearsals must provide 1 hour (60 minutes) of practice time with the band that day before participating in other scheduled activities. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points for that

rehearsal, endangering a lowered grade in band class, and lessening the effectiveness of the band in performance. Fair share policy is in effect to also build a stronger sense of time management and priority setting for students to be able to participate in events they enjoy. Furthermore, on days where a band practice coincides with a game, match, or competition, students can go to that event without any detriment to their grade.

Likewise, on days when we have performances (football game, tournament, parade) which coincide with a practice or meeting, the expectation and agreement is that band students will be at our scheduled event.

3. Extra practices, though rare, may be called to fix, modify, and improve an aspect of our musical performances and should be treated with the same importance as regularly scheduled practice times.
4. If illness, family emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances are to arrive a student will be given permission to miss any associated practices as long as notification be given to the director via email, written letter, or phone call by any member of the household so that proper adjustments can be made, or that a letter authenticating the absence is provided to the director upon the students return.
5. Every student in the South River Marching Band is given a “free pass” which is the opportunity to miss one rehearsal a marking period without reprisal. The free pass does not and should not be used in conjunction with any performances.

General Information: Concert Band

6. Following Marching Band season transition to Concert Band will take place on or about first week of November. Regular practices will take place every Wednesday after school from 2:30-4:30PM. After school practices are **part of every classroom student's grade**, as an extension of the classroom environment and takes the place of regularly assigned written homework or projects. Therefore, every student in the band class is expected to be at these regularly scheduled rehearsals to best prepare for our public performance obligations: Seasonal Concerts, County Band Festival Assessments, Graduation, etc.
7. If a student is a member of the band class and participating in an athletic team, or other extra-curricular club or organization, they must fulfill their obligations to the “**fair-share**” policy (*see “fair share policy,” pg.14*).
8. Extra practices, though rare, may be called to fix, modify, and improve an aspect of our musical performances and should be treated with the same importance as regularly scheduled practice times.
9. If illness, family emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances are to arrive a student will be given permission to miss any associated practices as long as notification be given to the director via email, written letter, or

phone call by any member of the household so that proper adjustments can be made, or that a letter authenticating the absence is provided to the director upon the students return.

10. Every student in the South River Band is given a “free pass” which is the opportunity to miss one rehearsal a marking period without reprisal. The free pass does not and should not be used in conjunction with any performances. Free passes are not cumulative nor can be saved for subsequent marking periods.
11. Participation in All County, All State, and Solo and Ensemble events, along with BSO Side-by-Side, and concerto audition events, though not requires, and are given the highest and most sincere recommendations.
12. **Play-a-thon:** South River Instrumental students are expected to participate in our annual Play-a-thon which is an educational event designed to bring in outside professional clinicians to work with our orchestra, band, jazz, and choral students to prepare for spring adjudication festivals, spring trip, and spring concerts. The Play-a-thon is also a fundraising opportunity for students and families to raise funds for spring trip, spring activity fees, or other expenses they may need. Students raise funds by filling out pledge sheets and collecting hourly donations made by family and friends. Play-a-thons typically occur during the month of March, on either a Friday night or Saturday, for 8-9 hours.

General Information: Orchestra Class and Rehearsals

12. Regular practices will take place every Monday after school from 2:30-4:30PM. After school practices are part of every classroom student’s grade, as it is an extension of the co-curricular classroom environment and takes the place of regularly assigned written homework or projects. Therefore, every student in orchestra class is expected to attend these regularly scheduled rehearsals to best prepare for our public performance obligations: Towson University Orchestra Concerts, Seasonal Concerts, Graduation, County/State Festival, Spring Trip (voluntary), Feeder System Concerts, and other special requests.
13. If a student is a member of orchestra class and wishes to participate with athletics, extra-curricular club/organization, or other outside interests, they must first fulfill their obligations of the “**fair-share policy**” (see page 14). Any student wishing to participate in organizations other than Music regarding after school band rehearsals, must provide one-half of the scheduled practice time with the orchestra before participating in other scheduled activities. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points for that rehearsal, endangering a lowered grade in class, and lessening the effectiveness of the ensemble performance.

14. **Dress rehearsals require mandatory attendance.**
15. Extra rehearsals, though rare, may be called to fix, modify, and/or improve an aspect of our musical performance and should be treated with the same importance as regularly scheduled rehearsals.
16. If illness, family emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances arise, a student will be excused from that rehearsal so long as notification be given to the director via email, written letter, or phone call by a parent/guardian. A written letter or email, authenticating the student's absence, will be provided to the director upon the student's return.
17. Every student in the South River Orchestra is given a "free pass" which is the opportunity to miss one rehearsal each marking period without penalty. The free pass **does not** work for **dress rehearsals** or **performances**. Free passes are not cumulative nor can be saved up in subsequent marking periods.
18. **Play-a-thon:** South River Orchestra students are expected to participate in our annual Play-a-thon which is an educational event designed to bring in outside professional clinicians to work with our orchestra, band, jazz, and choral students in an attempt to prepare for spring adjudication festivals, spring trip, and spring concerts. The Play-a-thon is also a fundraising opportunity for students and families to raise funds for spring trip, spring activity fees, or other expenses they may need. Students raise funds by filling out pledge sheets and collecting hourly donations made by family and friends. Play-a-thons typically occur in the month of March, on a Friday night or all-day Saturday, for approximately 8-9 hours.
19. Participation in All County, All State, and Solo and Ensemble events, along with BSO Side-by-Side, and Young Soloist auditioned events, though not required, are given the highest and most sincere recommendations.
20. Students in the South River Orchestra have a unique and impressive opportunity to participate in the only High School Artist in Residence Partnership with the Towson University Orchestra. This collegiate orchestra is housed at South River High School where its players are comprised of professionals, teachers, and high qualified college and high school students. South River High School students have the distinct privilege of performing with the Towson University Orchestra (TUO) on various concert events occurring in October, as well as auditioning to become an active member of the orchestra. All inquiries will be approved by the Music Director prior to auditioning.

Concert Event Expectations, Concert Attire, and Participation

24. All student musicians, regardless of ensemble, will complete each semester with a culminating summative assessment in the form of Seasonal Concerts. Fall Semester will have four such summative assessments: Marching Season, October (Orchestra only), November (Band and Strings), and December (All Musicians).
25. Spring Semester will have four summative assessments: Play-a-Thon, County Band/Orchestra Festival, Spring Concert, and Graduation. It is imperative that each student musician be prepared and available to perform at each scheduled concert event. Failure to do so will result in a significant loss of points and the potential for loss of credit. Each case will be reviewed by the Music Director and a make-up performance assignment may be assigned, at the Directors discretion, to avoid the loss of credit.
26. Every student musician is expected to wear the prescribed concert attire for all concerts without exception.
 1. Boys will be measured for a black vest, white tux shirt, black bow tie, black tux pants (black dress pants with visible stripe down the outside of each pant leg), black socks and black dress shoes.
 2. Girls will wear black, floor length dresses, black stockings, black dress shoes. Pearl necklaces and stud earrings are permissible, but no other distracting or flashy jewelry is allowed.
 3. Students with specific dress code needs will communicate those needs with the Music Director.
 4. Order forms are available on the music department website: www.southernrivermusic.org for vests, dresses, and tuxedo garments. Many articles of clothing are available through the Music Department at discounted prices. All concert garments are subject to size and availability. Please contact Uniform Coordinator by email: southernrivermusic@gmail.com
27. All female cellists and bassists will wear black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes with a black button-down blouse or dress shirt
28. Part of giving a worthwhile concert performance is for everyone to look and sound the best. Therefore, students not properly dressed for a concert may be denied a performance onstage. Be proactive to be prepared.

N.E.S.T. Music Meetings Guidelines

28. N.E.S.T. Music Meetings will include one 25-minute session a week during N.E.S.T. for all Band/Orchestra members, regardless of schedules.
 29. Each session will be subjected to sectional rehearsal appointments, individual practice time, or one-on-one lessons with the Music Director.
 30. N.E.S.T. Activity periods will be scheduled on certain days of the week.
 31. Expectations are that all instrumental students will attend one weekly N.E.S.T. meeting as a co-curricular extension of any instrumental ensemble.
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Fair-Share Policy & Addendums

SRHS Instrumental Music “Fair-Share Policy:” Going beyond the classroom.

Students today are faced with far more quality choices than there are hours in the day. To alleviate the inherent anxiety these choices manifest, the “Fair Share Policy” was created to benefit students who desire to participate in various groups in and around South River High School (i.e. athletics, clubs, leadership, ROTC, Community College, work or work-study, etc.). The “Fair share policy” builds a stronger sense of time management and priority setting for students so that they can effectively participate in events they enjoy. Students who are eligible for “Fair-Share” will divide their time between after school ensembles and non-musical interests. The music student will participate for **no less than one half** of their ensemble rehearsal time, whether they participate at the beginning or end portions of the rehearsal. Students must arrive on time for each rehearsal and stay for the required time, otherwise grading will be affected. Students enrolled in this program will have **one unexcused absence** from an after-school rehearsal (except dress rehearsals and concerts) without penalty. This is known as a “**free pass**,” and each student receives one “**free pass**” per marking period. If they do not use the free pass, it goes away. “**Free passes**” are not cumulative and cannot be used in subsequent marking periods. **Free passes are not allowed for Dress Rehearsals or Concerts.** Student self-esteem is enhanced, and total team effort is elevated beyond the classroom through these rehearsals. Coaches, sponsors, and other personnel will be advised of students participating in their organizations to minimize overlap or delinquency.

Addendums:

Addendum I: If a music student has a game/match/athletic contest after school at the same time as a music ensemble rehearsal, they go directly to that athletic contest/event.

Addendum II: Likewise, if on a date where there is a scheduled music concert or public performance, and an athletic team or school sponsored group has a practice/meeting, that student will go directly to the music performance.

Addendum III: If a student has conflicting schedules between an athletic contest or other performance-oriented event on the same day as a music performance, it is advisable to seek parental intervention to ascertain if an early/late pick-up or drop-off might be possible and make every effort on the part of the coach, advisor, director, student, and parent/guardian, to contribute successfully to both events.

Addendum IV: It is the student's responsibility to confer with coaches, advisors, and music directors to conflate schedules and prepare before scheduled events are to occur to eliminate schedule conflicts.

SRHS Instrumental Band/Orchestra Expectations

The SRHS Music Students will be...

#1. Responsible by...

Showing daily upkeep of all instruments, lockers, and refraining from eating/leaving trash.

#2. Respectful by...

Providing Great Music Daily!

#3. Building Relationships by...

Treating others the way you wish to be treated; taking ownership of your place in each ensemble while cultivating a positive environment.



The SRHS Music Department offers two field trips throughout the school year: one during Fall Semester, the other during Spring Semester.

- Fall Semester Music Department is an educational concert field trip to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Side-by-Side and young soloist concert, held at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, MD.
- BSO side-by-side field trips cost approximately \$35: including ticket cost, transportation costs per pupil, and an all-inclusive lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe, Inner Harbor, Baltimore.
- Students are excused from classes for this field trip as it is a co-curricular.
- Students who have **not paid any portion** of their semester activity fees are not authorized for Music Department field trips. All activity fees should be at least 50% paid to qualify.
- In Spring Semester, the SRHS Music Department will take an Educational Performance Overnight field trip to an out of state destination.
- Spring trips are voluntary. All students are highly encouraged to attend.
- Spring trips are typically four days, three nights, and span from late Thursday night prior to Spring Break until the following Monday.
- Spring trips are completely Fundraise-able and students are highly encouraged to participate in fundraisers throughout the year.
- Charter buses, hotel accommodations, some meals, registration fees, and admission costs to local events/parks are included in pricing.
- Payment schedules and deadlines must be met to ensure student placement on trip. Failure to do so may result in a student wait-listing.
- All spring trip costs require a \$100 non-refundable security deposit.
This ensures that:

A. Students have a reserved spot for the trip.

B. Students/parents sign an agreement form ensuring their participation.

- Music Spring Trips involve an adjudicated performance competition for all participating music ensembles, and an educational clinic, local historic tours, awards ceremony at an amusement park, plus additional social building events.
- Parent chaperones are highly recommended. Parents must complete a full security background check with AACPS before receiving clearance for trip. This means fingerprints, criminal history, and sexual harassment.
- Financial considerations will be made on behalf of the SRHS Music Boosters to help a limited number of families with *significant financial needs*. Please contact Mr. Cavanaugh for a confidential conference.