



South County Orchestra

Handbook
2020 – 2021



Marci Swift
Orchestra Director

Please visit our website at
<http://www.schsorchestra.org>
for additional information!

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Welcome to the Stallion Orchestra Family!

Dear Orchestra Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at South County High School! This school year brings new challenges, and while the uncertainty of our current climate can be unsettling, trust that you have an outlet to share and express yourself here in the South County Orchestra Family. I look forward to reconnecting with my returning members and welcoming our new members this school year!

Participating in Orchestra requires a significant amount of responsibility from the student and parents/guardians. My expectations are high in order to ensure high quality music learning. My goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for quality musical instruction. In return, I ask that every student put forth maximum effort in and out of the classroom, however that may look this year. Our teamwork, commitment, and positive attitude will help to ensure that South County continues to be one of the best orchestra programs in District 10! Please do not hesitate to approach me with any questions or concerns regarding your progress in Orchestra.

Please **take the time** to read the handbook and review the calendar so you are familiar with the course expectations. In addition to the Traditional Orchestra Handbook, please familiarize yourself with the *Distance Learning Syllabus*. After reviewing all documents, please complete the [Pre-Instruction Parental Survey](#) (by Friday, September 11, 2020) where you can acknowledge understanding of all information shared here. All course fees can be paid via My School Bucks and should be paid by Friday, September 25, 2020.

In addition to reviewing this important information, please take time to make sure your instrument/bow is in good working order prior to the first day of instruction. Bows with thin hairs need to be re-haired and strings more than one year old should also be replaced (see stores/catalogs below). This is crucial to class participation and as a result, your Orchestra grade.

I look forward to working with you all this year. Feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Musically yours,



Marci Swift

Director of South County HS Orchestras

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703-446-1985

www.schsorchestra.org

Orchestra Course Expectations

The primary goal of the orchestra is to work together to produce a superior performing ensemble. My personal goal is to provide each student with a comprehensive instrumental music education by teaching the skills and attitudes needed to succeed as a musician and young adult. These skills include building a strong work ethic, discipline, cooperation, and a commitment to excellence.

Rehearsal Expectations

- **Be kind.** Think before you speak, make good choices.
- **Know your part.** Understand the need for practice and try to establish a regimen.
- **Be prompt.** Please be punctual for class, rehearsals, and concerts as well as turning in assignments, money, and paperwork.
- **Be committed.** Give 100% during rehearsals, both in your actions and attitude. Exhibit proper posture, good attitude, and respect. Avoid texting, eating, or talking during rehearsals. There are appropriate times for these things.... active rehearsal is not one of them.
- **Show respect.** Be kind to your classmates, booster parents, and faculty. Treat equipment with respect.
- **Make every minute count.** Bad habits in rehearsal lead to bad habits on stage. Treat every class and every rehearsal as if it's our last—excellent rehearsals lead to excellent concerts.
- **Be Prepared. Bring the following materials to class each day.**
 - ❖ Instrument (New strings, rosin, fresh bow hair, shoulder rest)
 - ❖ Short fingernails
 - ❖ Tuner app or device (Tuner Lite, insTuner are both great options.)
 - ❖ Metronome app or device (Pro Metronome is one option)
 - ❖ Pencil (NO PEN)
 - ❖ Cleaning Cloth
 - ❖ Black, 1 ½ 2-inch Binder with 20-30 clear page protectors to hold practice music, rhythm and scale packets, staff paper, etc. OR a folder dedicated to Orchestra (*this is recommended, not required*).

Instruments

Each student MUST have an instrument. Instruments can be rented or purchased from local music stores or several reputable online dealers. Please do not purchase an instrument before consulting a professional first. Some deals are too good to be true, especially internet purchases. Your private teacher and/or I are happy to assist you with your purchase.

Fairfax County Instruments

Students on the **Fairfax County Free-Reduced Lunch Program** may rent a violin or viola for a fee of **\$20.00** per year. Instrument rental forms/fees can be found on the orchestra website or Google Classroom and must be received by **Friday, September 25, 2020** (*payment via My School Bucks*).

South County Instruments

Cellos and basses are available for rent from the school. Musicians will need two instruments: one for home practice and one for school. It is recommended that an instrument be rented/purchased from a local store for home use.

Fees: *\$50 per year for classroom instruments (shared) – NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME*
\$100 per year for home instruments (not shared) – limited availability. First come, first served.

Responsibility and Care of School Owned Rental Instruments

Students using school-owned and county-owned instruments are responsible for keeping the instruments in good shape. The Instrument Rental contract outlines the student and parent responsibility associated with caring for the instrument. Basic string repairs will be paid for by Fairfax County. The cost of repairs due to student neglect or abuse will be the responsibility of the family (you will be billed through FCPS. Do NOT attempt to fix the instrument yourself).

It is a student's responsibility to inform the teacher as soon as there is a problem (i.e. - case won't latch, bow needs hair, fine tuner won't turn, etc.). Please communicate with me as soon as you are aware of an issue.

Instrument Locker Rules (*for IN PERSON instruction only*)

1. All instruments stored in the locker room must be clearly labeled with student's name and phone number. This information should be displayed on a tag or taped to the outside of the case.
2. All students are responsible for keeping the instrument locker area clean and neat.
3. Do not store drinks, food or candy in your orchestra locker.
4. Locks are provided by the school. Students must use the lock and locker provided by Ms. Swift. We must be able to locate your instrument in an emergency.
5. Keep track of your own locker combination and **LOCK IT!** The orchestra or SCHS will

not be held responsible for loss, theft, or damage to any items left in an unlocked locker or in the classroom!

6. Absolutely no instruments may be left on the floor of the storage room or the orchestra classroom.

Instrument Accessories

Students will need additional items and accessories for their instruments such as rosin, extra strings, shoulder rests, tuners, metronomes, etc. You may visit a local music store or order through one of these online dealers.

Southwest Strings

1-800-528-3430

www.swstrings.com

Shar Music

1-800-248-SHAR (7427)

www.sharmusic.com

Amazon

Local String Shops

Brobst Violin Shop

5584 General Washington Dr.
Alexandria, VA
703-256-0566
www.brobstviolins.com

Potter's Violins

7711 Eastern Avenue
Takoma, MD
1-800-317-9452
<http://store.pottersviolins.com/>

Bob's House of Basses

12301 Shaefer Ln.
Glenn Dale, MD
301-805-9407

Music and Arts Center (rentals)

6810 Bland St.
Springfield, VA
703-451-0875

Day Violins LLC

14221A Willard Rd. #500,
Chantilly, VA
703-391-9444

Donald Cohen

****Same-day service for bow re-hairs!**

<http://www.cohenbows.com>

Private Lessons

Private instructors teach one-on-one at the student's pace and can help develop technical and musical skills. Lessons are great for students needing an extra push (i.e., for some difficult music, preparing for auditions, etc.) or extra one-on-one help outside of the large orchestra rehearsal. A list of private teachers will be available on the Orchestra website and Google Classroom.

Attendance

(below outlines attendance guidelines for in-person instruction. Please refer to the Distance Learning Syllabus for attendance policies for virtual instruction)

An orchestra performs at its best with all members present. We are a team and everyone is important! Therefore, students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director (see "Absence Policy"). A minimal number of rehearsals are being scheduled, which makes attendance imperative. **Plan now.** Conflicts with club or sport activities can be settled between the teachers/coaches, but only when we have plenty of advanced notice. The orchestra calendar is available via your handbook and the orchestra website (www.schsorchestra.org) and the South County school website. In the end, there are few excuses for absences and attendance will be graded accordingly.

Tardies – Rehearsals and Performances

Students are expected to be on time to all orchestra activities. "ON TIME" means ready to tune with all necessary items. Ms. Swift should be made aware of tardies due to club meetings well in advance and not the day of the rehearsal. Plan ahead!

Absence Policy

As per FCPS Regulation 3866, all rehearsals and concerts are considered part of the course requirements for orchestra. Orchestra is a curricular course and not extra-curricular. We are a performing group, so it is essential that students participate in performances. There are few excuses for missing an event...

1. **Written** notices *from parents* are required for all **rehearsal** absences (e-mail is sufficient). Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted and will be considered unexcused. Concert absences **will not be excused**, with the exception of illness or family emergency. Extenuating Circumstances: Excused concert absences (as deemed by director) may be with a written or recorded assignment for partial credit.

*Conflicts with South County sports, clubs, and academics will be settled between the faculty members. Absences must be pre-arranged in order to be excused and to avoid receiving a grade for non-participation. Notify both the director and the other faculty member as soon as you know of a conflict. Notification on the "day of an event" is unacceptable.

2. In order for an absence to be excused, advance notice is required for any prior commitments. A prior commitment means a date already committed to before the orchestra schedule is announced (first day of school). Notice must be received as soon as possible so that necessary adjustments to music/seating can be made. We have very few rehearsals; check the calendar and plan appointments and such accordingly.
3. In the case of illness and/or family emergency, parents should phone me as soon as they are aware that such a situation exists. If this is an emergency situation (something that

happens 30 minutes before a rehearsal/concert), leave a voicemail in the orchestra office at 703-446-1985.

4. Please directly address the orchestra director, Ms. Swift, with any attendance issues. This is not a booster or attendance office situation.
5. Religious holidays or conflicts with individual religious beliefs are considered excused provided that the director has been notified in writing by the parent in advance.
6. **Lack of transportation or “I have to work” is not an excused absence. Arrange transportation, plan accordingly with your boss or contact me if you need help organizing a carpool.**

Please talk to Mrs. Swift directly if there are unusual circumstances that arise. Unexcused absences affect both the morale and the success of the entire orchestra. We depend upon each other.

After-school rehearsals and performances are considered extensions of the classroom and are therefore laboratory and/or practical applications of the orchestra curriculum. Students are responsible and accountable for their attendance and quality of participation as related to all laboratory and/or practical applications. Seating may be adjusted based on rehearsal/concert attendance.

Daily Rehearsal Procedures

For IN-PERSON instruction

1. All non-orchestra items are to be placed under chairs during rehearsal. This includes food, other class work, and cell phones (with the exception of tuning when necessary).
2. Be seated, warmed up, and be ready to tune 3 minutes after the tardy bell. Rehearsal begins promptly when the director steps onto the podium. There should be NO talking during tuning.
3. Announcements and rehearsal order will be posted on the board prior to rehearsal. Put music in order before tuning.
4. All students must have their instruments, music, a pencil, and any other material (i.e., rosin, shoulder rest, short nails, etc.) needed to perform in order to receive full credit for the weekly participation grade.

Conduct

Rehearsal techniques are probably the most important parts of performance. What we do in rehearsal often reflects what we do on stage, so let's set our expectations high. If a student chooses to go against normal rehearsal procedure, that student will receive a warning and parental contact will be made if behavior continues. Written and/or administrator consequence will follow if the problem is not rectified.

Grading Policy

Orchestra is not an automatic 'A'. You must earn it!

20%: Rehearsal Etiquette

- short nails and good posture
- effort in performance/classwork
- bringing and maintaining equipment, supplies, and music binder/folder
- proper tuning conduct
- being prepared to play on time – lack of preparedness and readiness during rehearsals will affect rehearsal etiquette grade

30%: Individual Performance Assessments (IPAs)

All orchestra students must join the google classroom for their ensemble. IPA recordings will be uploaded to this page throughout the year. Students who do not have a device to record (i.e.- smartphone, computer, iPad, etc.) should contact Ms. Swift ASAP

30%: Ensemble Performance Assessments

All students will be required to submit quarterly ensemble performances. These will be done virtually via various software platforms. These ensembles may be duets, trios, quartets, etc.

20%: Classwork and Written Assessments

Student will be assigned work during synchronous instruction. This work will cover music theory, terminology, critical music analysis, dictation and music listening exercises as well as other in-class activities.

Final Orchestra Grade: We will be using a Rolling Gradebook this school year. All graded assignments given throughout the year will contribute towards the final grade. The grade at the end of the fourth quarter will factor 90% of the final grade. The final exam will account for the remaining 10% of the final Orchestra grade.

Chairs/Seating

Placement within each string section will be at the discretion of the director and may be decided through individual assessments (IPA's) on concert repertoire, seating rotations, blind placements, or placements deemed in the best interest of the ensemble.

Concert, Symphonic and Philharmonic Orchestras may rotate seating when possible in order to give students different viewpoints/sound perspectives. Violinists may play both first and second violin parts when appropriate with the goal of experiencing melodic and harmonic parts. However, students who cannot fulfill their duties as section leaders (i.e., run effective sectionals, mark bowings, perform solos as marked) will be relieved of their duties and replaced with qualified candidates.

If a student is away from school for an extended length of time or unable to play due to injury or illness, the student may have to forfeit prior seating. The student will be placed within the section by the director.

Home Practice

In order for the orchestra to perform at its best each individual must practice the new skills and music at home. Students have individual strengths and weaknesses which are best addressed in home practice and/or private lessons. Like math, reading, or social studies, some concepts in orchestra will come easily while others will be more difficult to grasp.

Because playing a stringed instrument is a physical activity, it is important to practice at home—slowly and carefully—in order for the muscles to master these skills. If conditions make it impossible to practice at home, students should be prepared to use the flex period or make arrangements to come before or stay after school.

The purposes of self-guided practice:

- Set Goals
- Develop personal endurance
- Develop personal facility
- Developing characteristic tone
- Solidify intonation
- Reflections: Did you reach your goals?

Care of Music

Students are responsible for all music they receive. Each student will receive practice copies of concert music to be stored in their music binder and brought to all rehearsals.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsal Etiquette is based on the quality of a student response in orchestra. In order to maintain high quality of performance and mastery of the subject students are expected to have their materials in class each day as a part of the weekly rehearsal etiquette grade. It's an easy way to make a 100, but also an easy way to lower your grade quickly. Points will be deducted when students consistently fail to bring required materials (instrument, music, etc.)

-10 points: Missing music or other required materials

-50 points: Missing instrument

-10 points: Long nails

-10 points: Repeated gum chewing

Performance Opportunities

The South County Orchestras will have a variety of performance opportunities both in and outside school. While many of these events are required portions of this course, some are optional and are indicated accordingly below.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES: *For in-person instruction ONLY.*

Fall Masquerade Concert – ALL SCHS orchestra perform at this pyramid concert. We will share the stage with the Advanced Middle School orchestra as well as our elementary feeder programs.

Winter Concert – ALL SCHS orchestras perform in December.

Pre-Assessment Concert – ALL SCHS orchestras perform their concert selections for the community in early March in preparation for the adjudicated State Orchestra Assessment that takes place in March.

Virginia State Orchestra Assessment – Assessment is the Standards of Learning (SOL) for music and it takes place in March. It is considered the most important performance of the year. Groups are required to prepare a warm-up selection and two pieces that challenge the performers, and some groups may choose to sight-read an unfamiliar piece as part of the adjudication. The judges will grade the ensemble performance on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being a superior) and all scores are posted statewide in April. Students rehearse intensely on these pieces during the winter months. **All rehearsals, workshops, concerts and assessment performances are mandatory. Fairfax County covers any fees required for state assessment. Reserve both Friday and Saturday dates.**

Spring Concert – ALL SCHS orchestra will perform in May. This culminating performance may include SCHS band/choir students (depending upon literature).

Graduation – ALL non-graduating Symphonic and Chamber Orchestra students are required to provide the music annually for SCHS graduation ceremony at George Mason University. Please keep the graduation date in mind when planning your summer vacation; sometimes graduation day is after the last day of school.

OPTIONAL PERFORMANCES: *(please note that some of these performances are still required for Chamber Orchestra members).*

SRO-Senior Regional Orchestra of Northern Virginia – Select students perform by auditioned invitation only in November. Students who are in grades 9-12, and are members of their school orchestra are eligible to audition for the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra. The cost of the audition is \$6-\$8 and the event cost ranges \$20-\$30 may be paid by SCHS Orchestra Boosters if possible.

VBODA All-State – Senior Regional participants are eligible to audition for the All-State Orchestra. This ensemble is a full symphonic orchestra comprised of students throughout the state. Auditions are held in late February at James Madison University and the event takes place in April. Fee will be paid by SCHS Orchestra Boosters.

District Orchestra – This honors orchestra is an auditioned group made up of the finest string players from the 14 middle and high schools in District 10. Students receive the audition materials in June, and auditions are held in November. Audition requirements consist of prepared excerpts and scales with specific bowings. The event takes place in early January (Thursday–Saturday). Eligible students are strongly encouraged to audition for this event. All students receive academic letter points for auditioning, participating, and observing. The audition fee is \$5.00. There is a non-refundable participation fee of \$25-\$30 if a student is selected for the Honors Orchestra.** *Chamber orchestra members are required to audition for DHO or SRO.*

Solo and Ensemble – This event takes place in April. Students are strongly encouraged to perform a solo or an ensemble piece. The students will be graded by a judge and given a rating of superior, excellent, good, fair, or poor. Students receiving a superior or excellent rating will receive an achievement medal at the end of the year. Participating in the festival includes the following:

1. Buy an appropriate solo. (It must be a Classical piece written for your instrument—no pop songs or show tunes, and no orchestra parts.) You will need an original copy of the piece for the judge. No photocopies are allowed due to copyright laws. If your piece has an essential piano part, it is your responsibility to arrange for an accompanist. Please check with Ms. Swift or your private teacher if you are unsure whether you need an accompanist.
2. Students will need to register and pay a fee for the festival in late February or early March. The fee is non-refundable.

Spring Trip

Participation is not required but strongly encouraged and is contingent upon the behavior and grades of the students throughout the year. Students must maintain a “B” average or better in their music class and have no disciplinary referrals or concert absences during the second semester; final attendance is at the discretion of the director.

All students are encouraged to attend this trip for the musical, educational, and social value. The directors put a great deal of time and preparation into trip planning and are committed to making it fun and safe for everyone. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Orchestra fundraising activities throughout the year to help offset the total group cost of the trip.

Chamber Orchestra – SCHS Chamber Orchestra is the highest performing level orchestra at South County HS. Students are placed by successful audition. It is an honor and a

commitment to be a member of this ensemble; Members are essentially the “face of the orchestra.” Your talents and positive attitude will help to recruit and retain new members, as well as educate the community about what we do as an organization. Membership in the Chamber Orchestra will bring some additional responsibilities as well as extra privileges. These responsibilities include but are not limited to playing at South County and community events, leading sectionals for the younger students, and occasional paid gigs.

****All Chamber Orchestra students are required to audition for SRO and/or District Honors Orchestra. Students must also participate in the annual Masquerade workshop.**

Uniforms

NOT applicable for the 2020-2021 school year

A professional looking ensemble adds to the overall aesthetics of the performance, leaves a positive impression on the audience, and boosts the confidence and morale of the players. It is for these reasons that the SCHS Orchestras require a standard concert uniform. Students who do not wear the complete uniform to concerts may not perform and will be graded accordingly. Students who cannot perform due to injury are required to attend the concert in concert dress.

All Orchestra members are required to purchase the orchestra uniform upon entering 9th grade. Measurements will be obtained during class the first two weeks of school. Returning students may also purchase new items if necessary.

Attire

Female: Formal black dress, black hose, black closed-toe dress shoes.

Male: Black tuxedo pants, black dress shirt, black tie, black socks, black dress shoes.

See Orchestra Payment Form for uniform costs

***Students on the free/reduced lunch program are eligible for financial assistance with uniform expense. Parents must show county acceptance letter to purchase a uniform at half-price or rent from school.**

- Uniform parts should be cleaned, ironed, and altered appropriately.
- Any hair ornaments should be brown or black. Long hair should be tied/pulled back so you can see the conductor and so the audience can see YOU!
- Black Dress Shoes ONLY - Athletic shoes are not appropriate for a tuxedo.
- Boys must wear black socks. Girls must wear black nylons/tights, or nude hose.
- Jewelry should be minimal and silent. If you wear a necklace or earrings, be sure that it doesn't vibrate on your instrument. **Bracelets are not permitted.**
- Please do not wear perfume or cologne for concerts. Some of our musicians and audience members have allergies.
- **Gum is NOT part of our uniform.**

Leadership Opportunities
TBD for the 2020-2021 school year

There are several leadership opportunities within the Orchestra. Students who are interested in applying for a position should complete the application located on Google Classroom. Leadership positions will be for the entire school year.

Historian will:

- Be responsible for documenting all orchestra events (photos and videos).
- Send all pictures to the orchestra webmaster to post.
- Send pictures to Social Media officer to post.
- Update orchestra awards case with pictures throughout the year.

Social Media Representative will:

- Help to manage all orchestra social media accounts in cooperation with adult designee.
- Create/manage a snapchat account (following correct FCPS social media guidelines).

Promotions Manager will:

- Create flyers for all concerts/performances to be posted around the school.
- Write up announcements for concerts to be sent to PTA and SCHS media outlets (morning announcements, etc.).

Recruitment/Outreach Coordinator will:

- Assist in coordinating the strings portion of the mentorship program at the middle school/elementary schools with Tri-M officers.
- Help to coordinate HS help with elementary orchestra concerts throughout the year.
 - Communicate with the elementary directors throughout the year.
- Coordinate with Mrs. Swift and other officers about any other recruitment ideas
 - Buddy system with middle schoolers (letter writing to encourage continued participation in high school, etc.)
 - Inviting elementary and middle school students to our concerts.
 - Coordinate Middle school small ensembles with coaching.

Librarian will:

- Keep music library organized throughout the year.
- Make copies of music as requested by Mrs. Swift.

Ms. Swift's Availability

<i>Monday</i>	8 – 11am. Please arrange meeting ahead of time via email to avoid conflicts with other students.
<i>Tuesday/Thursday</i>	by appointment between 9:45am-1pm
<i>Wednesday/Friday</i>	by appointment between 11:15am-1pm

Please check e-mail, your google classroom page and the orchestra website for announcements, upcoming events and rehearsal information. The SCHS Booster website www.schsorchestra.org will contain information regarding the calendar and fundraisers and general need-to-know orchestra information. Feel free to call and schedule a conference with me during a planning period or after school.

Parent Note

It is critical that we have a valid e-mail address for at least one parent in every family. Complete the google doc on the orchestra website. www.schsorchestra.org. E-mail is our primary means of communicating with you and an invalid address will cause you to miss important information. **Please be sure to notify us if your e-mail address should change during the year!**

Student Note

It is your responsibility to check both your e-mail daily so that you do not miss any announcements.

Acknowledgments

The growth and success of the orchestra depends on the contribution and positive attitudes of its members. Students who contribute by rehearsing effectively, helping others, and by being consistently prepared may be acknowledged and rewarded at the end of the year. Most acknowledgments are presented based on year-long progress, participation both in school and beyond, and service to the ensemble.

Most Improved Award – This student has worked diligently throughout the year and has made great strides in technical facility on the instrument, overall understanding of musical terms, techniques and musicianship.

Outstanding Musicianship Award – This student must have all “A’s” and “B’s” in orchestra for the year, attend all performances, display outstanding rehearsal and performance etiquette and leadership skills in order to be considered for this award.

Director's Award – Awarded to a senior who earns an “A” each quarter, attends all performances, obtains 100 service points which must include the district audition/event,

and displays consistent outstanding rehearsal and performance etiquette along with good leadership within the section or ensemble.

Krista Thompson Esprit de Corps Award – Awarded to a high school student with enthusiasm, generosity, teamwork, and perseverance among other outstanding qualities.

National Orchestra Award – Awarded (by director's selection) to an SCHS Senior who displays the characteristics of a professional musician.

Academic Letter – High school students may earn an Academic Letter and subsequent pins for following years of completion. Letters/pins are earned by accumulating 100 or more service points throughout the school year. Students should print out the Points Sheet (on page 17) and record service information throughout the year. **It is the responsibility of the student to complete the form, accurately documenting orchestra activities, and submit it to the Orchestra Director on or before the deadline. Be sure to attach programs and signatures where applicable.** Once a letter is received, a pin will be given to the student each subsequent year that letter status is achieved (100 points or more).

SCHS Orchestra Academic Letter Request

STUDENT NAME _____ Grade Level _____

- _____ (Year One) Submitted for Letter
- _____ (Year Two) Submitted for 100/200 pts Pin (I received my letter in 20____)
- _____ (Year Three) Submitted for Orchestra Lyre Pin
- _____ (Year Four) Submitted for Orchestra Diamond Pin

*An academic letter is awarded to a student who has earned 100 points from June 2020 - April 2021. Once a letter is earned, pins will be awarded to display on the letter for each additional 100 points earned. Request is due to Orchestra Director by **April 23, 2021**.*

	EVENT/ACTIVITY	POINTS	'20- '21
*	Weekly private lessons on primary instrument for the entire school year (violin, viola, cello, or string bass)	20	
	Tutoring/Mentoring ES or MS student. (5 points per session, 25 points max) <i>email from ES/MS teacher to Mrs. Swift is required</i>	Max 25	
	Served in an Orchestra or Tri-M Leadership position for the full year	15	
	Complete a full year of orchestra in good standing (GPA of A or B)	15	
	Acceptance into the Governor's School for Music	15	
	Acceptance into honor group (district, region, state)	15	
	Audition for honor group (district, region, state)	10	
	Participation in Solo & Ensemble (In person or virtual event)	15	
*	Year-Long Membership in an outside youth orchestra (attach program)	10	
	A.P. Theory	10	
*	Non-SCHS Summer Music Camp (Summer 2020) <i>CAN be virtual</i>	10	
	Tri-M Music Honor Society Member (<i>must be active full year and submit point sheet for credit</i>)	10	
*	Attend a virtual orchestra concert (5 points per concert, 20 points max/year; attach programs) – <i>link to performance should be sent to Mrs. Swift ahead of time.</i>	Max 20	
*	Perform for an event outside of school (<i>church, club, virtual event</i>) (5 points per, 15 point max)	Max 15	
	Participate in SCHS fundraiser (5 points per event, max 15)	Max 15	
*	Weekly private lessons the entire year on a second instrument (i.e., piano, guitar, etc.)	10	
	Other (see Director for approval):		
	TOTAL POINTS EARNED		

* Points awarded in these categories require a parent to send a confirmation email to Mrs. Swift.

Student Name (print) _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Ways to Support Your Child

You have already provided encouragement for your child by allowing them to participate in our orchestra program. Now that they have been studying a stringed instrument for several years, there are many ways you can continue to provide support for our students:

- Remind your child to bring his or her instrument and music to school on orchestra days.
- Assist your child promptly when he or she needs supplies. A week with a broken string means a week that they're not learning and practicing.
- Be sure your child has short fingernails (this helps students play in tune and with correct posture).
- Encourage your child to practice and perform for family and friends.
- Give compliments and encouraging words when you notice improvement or you like what your child is playing.
- Talk with your child about school and what they're learning in their classes.
- Assist with our concerts, fundraisers, and chaperone our field trips.
- Transport your child to public concerts, recitals, and other schools' concerts. Many of these events can be found in the local newspapers, as well as on the SCHS Orchestra website and bulletin board, and many of them are free!
- Encourage your child to study private lessons.
- **Attend your child's school concerts.** Children perform at a much higher level of quality when they know that an important person in their life took the time to come hear them play. Listening to your child perform is perhaps the strongest way you can encourage them to continue studying their instrument.
- Support the goals, policies and procedures of your orchestra director. Your child benefits when the orchestra is successful.

Ways to Support Your Orchestra – We need you!

You are automatically a member of the Orchestra Boosters when you have a student in the orchestra. In addition to supporting our fundraisers, we ask that each family helps with ONE orchestra event during the year. There are often tasks that would require just 30 minutes of your time! Volunteer positions include helping with Tag Day, pie distributions, chaperoning concerts or field trips, serving refreshments, transporting kids or instruments, or assisting with paperwork and administrative tasks. You will have the opportunity to sign up for volunteer job(s) at Stallion Stampede and Back-to-School night. Please share your talents with us to help make the orchestra program successful. Thank you!



Orchestra Calendar

2020 – 2021

(Items in bold are required if in person)

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
and dependent upon return to building status

SEP	1	Virtual Orientation for all students NEW to SCHS
	8	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
	25	Orchestra Fees and Instrument Rental Fees Due
	??	VIRTUAL Back to School Night 6:30-8pm
	TBD	VIRTUAL Tag Day
	21	Senior Regional Auditions VIRTUAL DEADLINE (Chamber students only)
NOV	17	District Orchestra Auditions @ Justice HS 4:00 pm (*required for Chamber)
	18	Tri-M Induction Ceremony in Silverbox 7:30PM
DEC	5	SCHS Craft Show (Volunteer Holiday Performances)
	14 or 15	Tiny Tots Rehearsal 3:15 – 5:00pm (still not determined)
	15 or 16	Tiny Tots Performance 8:00am-12pm
JAN	4	First Day back from Break
	??	SCHS Curriculum Fair 5:30-8pm (snow date Jan. ??)
	8-9	District Orchestra Event @ Falls Church HS
FEB	12	Black History Program Performance (Chamber Only)
	TBA	Guest Conductor and/or Fairfax Symphony SCORE
	27	All-State Orchestra Auditions @ JMU (if applicable)
MAR	4	Pre-Assessment Concert 6pm AND 7:30pm (specifics TBD)
	19-20	State Orchestra Assessment @ Edison HS
		(Please reserve both dates! Schedule will be finalized in January)
	29-31	Spring Break
APR	1-5	Spring Break
	??	Music Department Spring Trip to ??
	9	Solo and Ensemble Festival (strings only) @ Holmes MS
	22-23	All-State Event in Richmond (if applicable)
	23	Orchestra Scholarship application deadline (optional; seniors only)
	23	Academic Point Sheet (Orchestra Letter/Pin) Due
	30	Spring Musical (select musicians) 7PM show
MAY	1, 7, 8	Spring Musical (select musicians) 7PM shows
	12, 18	Full Symphony After-School Rehearsal 3:10 – 4:30
	26	ALL Orchestras After-School Rehearsal
	27	Awards Banquet, 5:30 p.m. in SCHS Cafeteria
	27	Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m. in SCHS Auditorium
JUN	8	Graduation (all non-graduating Philharmonic & Chamber students perform)
	11	Last Day of School



South County High School
South County HS Orchestras
 FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Marci Swift, Director of Orchestras

8501 Silverbrook Rd.
 Lorton, VA 22079
 703-446-1600
www.schsorchestra.org

2020-2021 Orchestra Course Fees

FCPS and The South County High School Orchestra Program will not charge students a fee for any mandatory aspect of the Generic Orchestra program except for musical instrument and course material fees which are permitted by the Virginia Department of Education regulations. Schools or Booster organizations cannot require a student to pay fees for course materials in excess of the amount approved by the FCPS School Board in Notice 5922.

FCPS Required Fees			
	Amount	Who pays this fee?	This pays for...
Orchestra Fee	\$20	All Orchestra Members	This fee covers <u>consumable</u> items/expenses for the 2020-2021 orchestra school year. This year, the fee will cover student Smart Music subscription.

FCPS Sponsored Optional Activity Fee		
<p>This is a fee that students are expected to pay if they choose to participate in any activities/trips associated with the South County Orchestra Program. This fee is determined and assessed based on the estimated cost of the trip/activity – including such costs as transportation, accommodation, registration, food, instruction, and other miscellaneous expenses.</p> <p>Students who do not pay the fees associated with a trip/activity will be ineligible to perform/participate in the trip/activity.</p>		
Optional Activity	Amount	Due Date
*Senior Regional Audition	\$8	N/A this year
*District Audition	\$5	TBD
District Orchestra	\$25 - 30	TBD
Spring Trip (April)	To Be Determined (~\$300-400)	N/A this year

FCPS Instrument Rental Fee

This required fee only applies to students who play school-owned instruments and covers maintenance costs of those school-owned instruments. *Students who are verified to be on free/reduced meal plans are to pay \$20.* Fees are listed per instrument.

Instrument Rental Fee	Amount	Due Date
Violin, Viola, Cello & Bass for home	\$100 year (\$50 per semester)	9/25/20

Concert Attire NOT Applicable for the 2020-2021 school year

The concert attire items to be purchased and costs of each are listed below. Students on free/reduced lunch will pay half of the uniform costs.

Activity			
Orchestra Concert Uniform	MALE	Black tuxedo pants, black dress shirt, black tie.	N/A
	FEMALE	Formal black uniform dress	N/A

Individual Performance Events

There are opportunities throughout the school year for individual students to choose to audition and/or participate in other bands. Examples include the All-District or All-State Orchestra and the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Audition or participation fees are often assessed for these opportunities by the sponsoring organization. The South County High School Orchestra does not establish such fees but will assist in the collection of these fees from individuals who elect to participate and the submission of one group payment to the respective sponsoring organization. These fees are communicated at the time other information about these opportunities is communicated.

Payment Policies

My School Bucks

1. Download the app or visit the MySchoolBucks homepage and click on "Sign Up Today" (free account)
2. Create a user profile with your email address, establish a password, and set up your security questions.
3. Add a Student to your account using the student's name, date of birth, and/or student ID number.

Refunds: Typically, fees paid are non-refundable once commitments and purchases have been made. These refund policies will be communicated separately as they relate to individual activities.

Financial Assistance: Assistance is available for those in need of such assistance. Requests for financial assistance should be made directly to the Orchestra Director prior to the due date for the related fee.

The SCHS Orchestra Booster Club conducts a variety of fundraisers throughout the year to raise the funds to cover the remaining expenses such as student awards and recognitions, concert receptions, larger ticket items such as the purchase of new instruments and required professional dues for the Orchestra Director to ensure eligibility of students performing in additional district and state events.

Forms are available at www.schsorchestra.org



REQUIRED FORMS

ALL students should complete the following:

[SoCo ORCHESTRA PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION SHEET](#)

[SoCo ORCHESTRA STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET](#)

Students wishing to rent and instrument through SCHS should complete the following:

[SCHS INSTRUMENT RENTAL REQUEST FORM](#)