

Teaching Music
through
Music
Performance

Dr. Andrew F. Poor
Director of Bands

SOUTH FORSYTH
MIDDLE SCHOOL
BAND

2014-2015
Preview Meeting
May 19, 2014

WELCOME!

◎ Introduction

◎ Exciting Times for the SFMS Band

◎ 2014-2015 will be my 2nd year at SFMS

◎ Very successful year in 2013-2014

◎ Band has grown from 130 in May of 2013 to 270 in 2014

◎ In 2014, we will have:

- 130 6th grade
- 80 7th grade (63 in 2013)
- 60 8th grade (there were 38 8th grade in 2013)

OVERVIEW OF OUR SUCCESS

- ◎ Straight Superior Ratings at GMEA LGPE
- ◎ Superior Rating by 6th grade at Trills and Thrills Music Festival at Marietta HS
- ◎ Superior Rating, with a score of 100, at the High Note Music Festival at Kell HS
- ◎ 11 Students selected for UGA Midfest
- ◎ 11 Students selected for GMEA Dist 9 HB
- ◎ 1 Student selected for GMEA All-State Band
- ◎ 55 Students participated in GMEA Solo and Ensemble, with 51 Superior ratings.

OVERVIEW OF OUR PERFORMANCES

- ◎6th Grade presented a concert in December and May and for our visiting 5th grade students.
- ◎7th /8th Grade performed at SFHS Cluster Concert, December Concert, FCCBF at Lambert, GMEA LGPE, Lambert Spring Concert and our Spring Concert.
- ◎Jazz Band performed at PTA Fine Arts Showcase and Spring Concert.
- ◎Select students performed at Fallapolooza
- ◎7th and 8th grade performed at Riverwatch FB

HOW THE CLASSES ARE ORGANIZED

◎6th Grade

- By instrument/Woodwind and perc and brass and perc all year.

◎7th and 8th Grade

- Grouped by instrument in the fall
- By level in the spring
- Depending on other electives, some students may be placed in a different band class to accommodate the double class.

◎All classes are year-long and meet as a daily connections class.

6TH GRADE BAND

- ◎ No experience needed.
- ◎ We use a mastery-based system.
- ◎ Earning your stripes.
- ◎ Self-paced.
- ◎ Students who complete all stripes early are eligible for other activities
- ◎ We give two concerts.
- ◎ No after school rehearsals.
- ◎ Opportunity for help in the morning.
- ◎ Private lessons help but not required.
- ◎ A lot of optional extra-curricular activities for the motivated student.

Overview

Time Commitment

6TH GRADE INSTRUMENTS

- ◎ If you missed instrument fitting, no worries, we will have another one in August when we return.
- ◎ You will need to obtain an instrument by the second week of the school year.
- ◎ Some free help sessions two weeks before school starts.
- ◎ Please do not try to teach yourself!!!
- ◎ Please follow the recommended brands and accessories.
- ◎ If using a family-owned instrument, please have it checked by a repair person.
- ◎ There are very few, if any, good quality instruments that are inexpensive.

6TH GRADE WHAT TO EXPECT

- ◎ Beware of the Christmas Gift Effect.
- ◎ Learning an instrument is like the story of the “Tortoise and the Hare.”
We know who wins that one.
- ◎ The sounds will not be pretty. Be Patient!
- ◎ Video Game Analogy
- ◎ There is a one-time band fee of \$50, includes the cost of the band shirts.
- ◎ We do one fundraising activity, Rock-a-thon
- ◎ We do take an end-of-the-year trip to Six Flags, which is optional.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE

- ◎ In the fall, we will be grouped by instruments and perform as grade-level ensembles.
- ◎ In the spring, we will have two groups:
 - Accelerated=Symphonic Band
 - On-level=Concert Band
 - These groups will work like other Accel/OL classes
- ◎ Auditions will be in August when we return. Students will receive a packet of things to practice over the summer.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

◎Accelerated

- Students should be performing on an advanced 8th grade or higher level.
- Be willing to make a larger time commitment.
- More rehearsals and performances
- Will learn more music at a faster pace
- Will have additional expectations, such as All-State, Solo and Ensemble

◎On-level

- Will have fewer performances/after school rehearsals
- Will learn music at a normal rate.
- Will perform at FCCBF and LGPE
- Performance expectations are the same.
- Will perform on-level music for 7th and 8th grade.

EXPENSES FOR 7TH AND 8TH

- ◎ We are changing band Polo shirts next year.
- ◎ We need a shirt that comes in youth sizes.
- ◎ Unfortunately, this means that 8th grade will need to purchase another shirt.
- ◎ Band fee will be \$50 next year to cover the cost of the new shirt.
- ◎ Symphonic Band will have an additional concert attire.
- ◎ There will be a required trip for Symphonic and an optional trip for 8th grade concert.

CONCERT ATTIRE FOR SYM BAND

- ◎Cost is \$75. We will allow you to sell to new students after you are done.
- ◎Ladies=Black Concert Dress
- ◎Gentlemen=Tuxedo Pants, Shirt, Blue Bowtie, Black Vest



FUNDRAISING

- ◎ Our one fundraiser is Rock-a-thon
- ◎ Will be in September.
- ◎ We collect pledges to rock in rocking chairs for 6 hours, play games, have fun and enjoy each other's company.
- ◎ We need to raise a lot of money.
- ◎ We need about \$18,000 in new instruments b/c we are growing so fast.
- ◎ I will need to form a parent committee for this. Let me know if you can help.
- ◎ We may have to do more fundraising if we do not meet our goal. **WE NEED A LOT OF EQUIPMENT and INSTRUMENTS!**

PARENT HELP

◎ I am looking to form some parent committees to help with numerous things next year.

- Chaperone Chair
- Equipment Chair
- Fundraising Chair
- Trip Coordinator
- Volunteer helper(s) during school hours

◎ Yes, a trip coordinator!

◎ Where to???



OUR TRIP IS TO?

FESTIVAL DISNEY!!!!

- ◎The Symphonic Band (7th and 8th) has been accepted to play at Festival Disney
- ◎Also open to any on-level 8th graders who want to go
- ◎We will travel to Orlando by luxury charter buses to Walt Disney World. March 4-8, 2015
- ◎We will stay at a nice hotel.
- ◎We will perform at Disney in their world-renowned Festival program.
- ◎Visit three days of Disney Parks
- ◎Have a lot of fun!
- ◎Cost will be approximately \$600.
- ◎There will be a limit of 92 students and 12 chaperones.

TRIP DETAILS

- ◎ Payments will begin in September after Symphonic Band auditions are completed.
- ◎ Final payment will be in January.
- ◎ We will leave Wednesday night March 4. Drive through the night. Arrive in the morning of March 5. Visit some parks that day.
- ◎ Attend Festival Disney and some parks on Friday.
- ◎ Visit more parks on Saturday and leave Saturday night.
- ◎ Come home on Sunday.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- ◎ Most are being sent to the repair shop to be repaired.
- ◎ Most bassoons are not being sent in and can be rechecked out on Thursday.
- ◎ For all other school-owned instruments, I will send out an email once I receive the instruments back from the shop.
- ◎ I will set-up a couple of different days for students to come and check-out an instrument.

PERSONALLY-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- ◎ Our last day to play in class is Tuesday of this week.
- ◎ Only students who have not completed their benchmarks/stripes, will need their instruments.
- ◎ ALL personally-owned instruments should go home after Tuesday or when the student has completed their benchmarks.

SUMMER

◎Consider a Summer Camp

- We are hosting one here for experienced musicians called New Notes June 16-19.
- Web address is:
<http://www.newnotescamp.com/>

◎Be sure to practice some over the break.

- A little everyday is better than long breaks.

◎It takes two days to get back for everyday missed.

◎Free clinics, two weeks before school starts for beginners.

CLOSING

- ◎ Thank you for an outstanding year this year.
- ◎ It is going to be an even better year next year!
- ◎ Questions?
- ◎ Email: Apoor@forsyth.k12.ga.us