

Teaching Music  
through  
Music  
Performance

Dr. Andrew F. Poor  
Director of Bands

# SOUTH FORSYTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

2015-2016  
Preview Meeting  
May 20, 2015

# WELCOME!

- ◎ Introduction
- ◎ Exciting Times for the SFMS Band
- ◎ 2015-2016 will be my 3rd year at SFMS
- ◎ Very successful year in 2014-2015
- ◎ Band has grown from 130 in May of 2013 to 365 in 2015
- ◎ In 2015, we will have:
  - 175 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 106 7<sup>th</sup> grade (87 in 2013)
  - 81 8<sup>th</sup> grade (there were 38 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2013)

# OVERVIEW OF OUR SUCCESS

- ◉ Straight Superior Ratings at GMEA LGPE for both Concert and Symphonic.
- ◉ Superior Rating by 6<sup>th</sup> grade at High Note Festival at Kell High School, with a perfect 100 from one judge.
- ◉ Superior Rating, Best in Class and Gold Award at Festival Disney
- ◉ 26 Students selected for GMEA Dist 9 HB
- ◉ 7 Student selected for GMEA All-State Band
- ◉ 148 Students participated in GMEA Solo and Ensemble, with 123 Superior ratings.

# OVERVIEW OF OUR PERFORMANCES

- ◉ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade presented a concert in December and May and High Note Festival.
- ◉ 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade performed at: Fall Concert SFHS Cluster Concert, December Concert, Festival Disney, GMEA LGPE, and our Spring Concert.
- ◉ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students performed at Fallapolooza
- ◉ 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade performed at Riverwatch FB
- ◉ Performed at two pep rallies.
- ◉ 7<sup>th</sup> grade band performed for recruiting visits.

# HOW THE CLASSES ARE ORGANIZED

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Students are grouped by their class next year.
  - On-level (Concert Band) and Accelerated (Symphonic Band)
  - Depending on other electives, some students may be placed in a different band class to accommodate the double class.
    - I spoke with these students today.
- All classes are year-long and meet as a daily connections class.
- Concert Band will have about 4-6 after school rehearsals. Symphonic Band will have 12-14 after school rehearsals.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- We will have two groups:
  - Accelerated=Symphonic Band
  - On-level=Concert Band
  - These groups will work like other Accel/OL classes
- Students have been placed into one of the two groups.
- All Symphonic Band students will audition for chair placements when we return in the fall.
- Concert Band students can also receive the summer packet and play for me again in the fall.
- Students falling short or exceling may have their schedule placement adjusted.

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

## ◎ Accelerated

- Students should be performing on an advanced 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

# EXPENSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

- ◉ Same Polo shirts this year, only buy if you need one.
- ◉ Band fee will be \$50.
- ◉ We will work from two books: Foundations for Superior Performance and 101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns.
- ◉ Symphonic Band will have an additional concert attire. Returning members only need to purchase if needed. All new members must purchase.
- ◉ There will be a required trip for Symphonic to Athens and an optional trip for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students



# 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

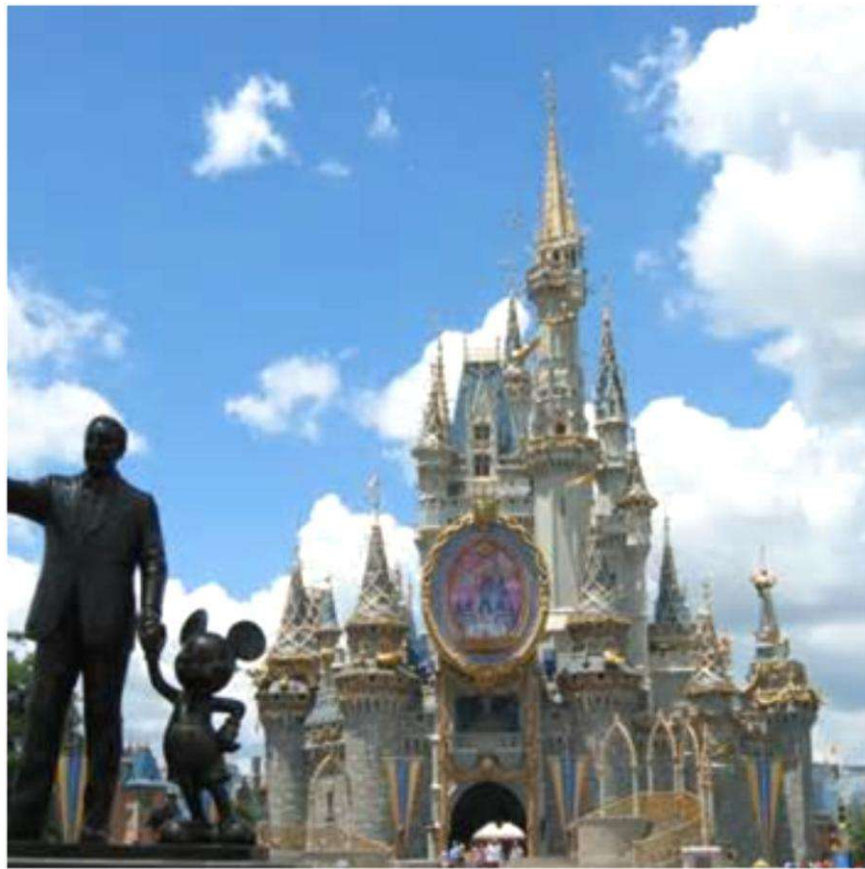


# FUNDRAISING

- ◉ 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. Looking for a chair person.
- ◉ 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
  - Volunteer helper(s) during school hours



OUR TRIP IS TO?

# YES! BACK TO DISNEY BUT WITH A TWIST!

- ◉ The band, along with the chorus program, will be taking a trip back to Disney this coming spring.
- ◉ Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Trip is optional but we must meet a minimum number.
- ◉ We will travel to Orlando by luxury charter buses to Walt Disney World. March 10-13, 2015. Different plant.
- ◉ We will stay on property, like last year.
- ◉ We will perform at Disney in their educational workshop program with Disney musicians.
- ◉ Visit three days of Disney Parks
- ◉ Have a lot of fun!
- ◉ Cost will be approximately \$600.
- ◉ There will be a limit of 94 students and 16 chaperones or until we reach 3 full charter buses combined with the chorus.

# TRIP DETAILS

- ◎ Payments will begin in September after Symphonic Band auditions are completed.
- ◎ Final payment will be in January.
- ◎ We will leave Thursday, March 10, early and arrive later that day.
- ◎ Visit parks on March 10, 11 and 12. and complete the workshop at some point during that time.
- ◎ We will return March 13 by 5:00 PM.
- ◎ Come home on Sunday.

# SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- ◉ Many are being sent to the repair shop to be repaired.
- ◉ Instruments that are not being repaired 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 was Monday
- ⦿ ALL personally-owned instruments should be home by now.
- ⦿ Please use this time to make repairs to your personally-owned instruments. The sooner the better.
- ⦿ If interested, let me know if you would like information on upgrading your instrument.



# SUMMER

- ◉ Consider a Summer Camp
  - Local Camp for experienced musicians called New Notes June 22-25.
  - 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.
- ◉ Symphonic Band will have a reading session on the Monday afternoon before we return from summer break. Look for an email.

# NEW FOR NEXT YEAR

- ◉ We will be adding an Assistant Director to help with all facets of the program.
- ◉ We will have a student teacher from University of Georgia for the fall.
- ◉ The Symphonic Band will be performing at the University of Georgia Middle School Honor Band (MidFest) on December 11 along with Mike Roylance, Principal Tuba, from the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- ◉ Sight Reading Factory.  
<https://www.sightreadingfactory.com/#features>

# 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](mailto:Apoor@forsyth.k12.ga.us)