

South River High School Band Welcome Letter



From: Mr. Gerald Cavanaugh
Instrumental Music Director
Music Department
South River High School

May 6, 2011

To: The Parents and New and Current Band and Color Guard Members,

Dear Parents and Students;

Welcome! Attached, you will find information about the South River High School Band Camp. The purpose of our camp is to get new Band and Color Guard members acquainted with our band program and the returning band members for fall performances, beginning as early as August. In addition to the band class, our band meets after school as an extracurricular activity. Full attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances are required for the after school band rehearsals. We have planned a camp with an exciting and musically rewarding itinerary of musical enrichment for your son or daughter.

This camp is mandatory for all students who wish to participate in fall performances. Our Directors require at least one (1) week of participation in our camp to satisfy attendance.

Camp Location - South River High School, 204 Central Ave E., Edgewater, MD

I. Camp Hours of Operation:

Week 1: Monday through Friday, August 1-5, 2011, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

***Monday, August 1st - New Members, Drum Majors, and Section Leaders ONLY!**

Week 2: Monday through Friday, August 8-12, 2011, 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Final Day: **Friday, August 12th** Rehearsal will be from 3-5pm, and then students are given time to prepare watermelon helmets for presentation. From 6-8:00pm there will be a cookout then performance for all Band Students, friends and family at South River High School. Please join us for this event.

II. The Cost of Camp

The cost for camp is titled as "Director's Fee." The Director's Fee for camp is **\$85.00** per student. This will cover music arrangements, instructional equipment and material needs, costs for instructors, janitorial services, and camp expenses.

III. Camp Schedule and Information: Parents please acknowledge that end times posted are when rehearsals end and students should be picked up after these posted times. Thank you for helping us ensure the maximum amount of time can be observed to prepare.

IV. South River High School Band Camp Program

The South River Band Camp is designed to train Band and Color Guard students in the skills of music and visual performance. The South River Band Program encompasses two main seasons: Athletic (Marching), and Indoor (Concert). Roughly one-third of our students' study will be on the aspects of being an Athletic Band (football games, parades, community events, competitions), through study of precision marching performance, while the remaining two-thirds of their study will involve training as a Concert Band which performs at all school concerts, County Festival Adjudication, and a Spring Trip. During camp, students are given daily instruction that is aimed at preparing them for this exciting high school band program. We begin our study with the demands of our outdoor precision marching season. All phases of music and drill are taught, including the aesthetic skills of music and physical performance of precision marching entertainment. The South River Band is listed in our course selection catalog as "Band," which makes no distinction between marching or concert band. Both are essential aspects of the collaborative music education taught at South River High School.

What to bring to the Camp

You must bring a snack each day for the lunch break during camp.

This snack should be a **Nutritious Brown Bag Snack**. You will need a hat, comfortable tennis shoes, hot weather clothing. You may wear shorts and Tee-shirts if you prefer (No halters or other inappropriate attire). Comfortable shoes for outside activities (No bare feet, flip-flops, or sandals). Each day you should bring to camp sun screen lotion, water bottle, insect repellent, spare change for drink machines, music, drill books, instruments (Band Members) or issued flags and poles, (Guard Members). Everyone bring pencils and folders for notes.

Need for Parent Chaperones:

Students may bring "Brown Bag" or snacks each day for camp. However, order forms will be distributed as early as first week for students to place lunch orders from nearby businesses. Snacks will be provided during breaks. The support of parents is needed to help facilitate lunch needs and parents are welcome to be on site to help with daily activities. Since most of our work will take place outdoors in the August heat, it is recommended that all students drink plenty of fluids (water, juices, fruits with high potassium content (grapes, oranges, bananas, etc.). **(Remember: NO SANDALS, THONGS, OR BARE FEET, HALTER TOPS OR BATHING SUITS OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE)**. There will be a nurse on site each day.

V. The Camp Staff:

The camp staff consists of highly qualified instructors, each with specific expertise in marching drill, woodwind, brass, percussion technique, or band front (Color Guard) design. The South River Band Camp Staff enjoy a collective of experience in educating and effectively motivating high school musicians.

Instrumental Music Director: Mr. Gerald Cavanaugh

Mr. Cavanaugh came from Binghamton, NY to South River High School's Music Department in 2008, as its 7th Instrumental Music Director. He holds a Bachelors of Music Education degree from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, with a dual concentration in Vocal and Instrumental Music (K-12), and a Masters in Music degree in Instrumental Conducting from Binghamton University. Mr. Cavanaugh has most recently studied with Dr. Marc

Boensel, a former Navy musician and Director of the Anne Arundel Community College Concert Band and Annapolis Wind Symphony, under the mentorship of Dr. Harlan Parker at Peabody Conservatory, and Dr. Anna Binneweg, Orchestra Director at Anne Arundel Community College and Music Director of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra. A world traveler, Mr. Cavanaugh has guest conducted on three continents, participated in many conducting festivals and institutes, and served as a consultant with both the Maryland and Annapolis Symphony Orchestras. He has also served as an Assistant Band Director at Severna Park High, & Director of Bands at Arundel High School.

Music Department Chairperson: Mr. Dennis Blair

In addition to being the Department Chairperson for the South River High School Music Department and Director of Choirs and Jazz Band, Mr. Blair has over 10 years of experience as a music educator and 17 years of experience as a musician with the United States Naval Band located in Annapolis. During his time as a Trumpeter with the Navy Band, Mr. Blair served his country as an instructor of the U.S. Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps and Naval Jazz Band. His expertise & constant support and dedication to our students in the South River Music Program make us one of the top programs in the county.

Percussion Instructor: Mr. Drew Harrah

For more than four years, Mr. Harrah has served as Percussion Instructor for South River High School. Mr. Harrah is a graduate of Towson University where he served for a short term as Marching Band Instructor as well as captain of the Towson Drumline. Mr. Harrah trains students in the marching drumline during the fall, directs an indoor percussion ensemble, an extension of the Band class.

Color Guard Instructor:

The position of color guard instructor is currently open and under review and will be filled prior to the start of the 2010 Band Camp. The Color Guard Instructor is present at all after school practices, at Tournaments, and football games. At any time the color guard instructor has the discretion to call for extra practices with the color guard as is needed by the demands of the drill and musical selections. To help with our new instructor's transition any interested "Fairy Guard Moms" and "Guard-Fathers" are greatly appreciated.

****A SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS****

We here at South River High School consider time spent with family and loved ones as a valued asset at the core of our instruction. We ask only that a "fair share" of time be placed between our student's commitments to our program and with their extra-musical obligations. We realize summer months are times when families spend quality time together on vacations or extended trips. We have adapted our Band Camp Schedule to accommodate for these circumstances, along with the awareness that medical, dental, and other personal appointments are often scheduled during this time. We ask that appointments be scheduled in accordance with our camp schedule in an effort to minimize conflict, allowing our students to maximize their enrichment. It is vital for development of the entire band for each student to be at each full rehearsal, as our time is limited. Your compliance with this request is greatly appreciated.

VI. South River High School Band Classroom Requirements:

Students registered for band class will also participate in the marching band. The Athletic/Concert Band is a co-curricular requirement that will enrich and strengthen each musician making them a stronger, more self-reliant, musician in the South River Music Program. The classroom band meets for eighty-five-minute periods on a block schedule of A & B days. Students are required to bring instruments to class daily. School owned instruments such as tubas, baritone horns, French horns; bass clarinets, tenor saxophones, percussion, and many others may be assigned to students by filling out an "Anne Arundel County Instrument Loan Form." Students are required to keep all instruments in good playing condition and will be responsible for all repairs and upkeep of personal instruments. Each student is issued band sheet music and other instructional materials in a folder. (Music and other supplementary materials will act as the formal "textbook" for the class.) The music teacher may add or delete these materials as students master certain music skills. Students are expected to practice these materials and have specific playing assignments prepared for daily class rehearsal. Students are graded on Class Participation, Class Preparation, Mastery of Assigned scales and technical drills, Performance of assigned band music and Participation in ALL school performances that are scheduled and published at the beginning of each school year. Performances that fall under this include school assemblies, Athletic events (Football Games), Competitions, Concerts, County Festivals, Parades, local events, Spring Trip, & graduation.

VII. South River Marching/Concert Band After School Rehearsal Policy

The South River High School Bands (Athletic and Concert) meet after school as an instructional extension to the band class. Rehearsals currently are every Wednesday after school during the school year. Performing events and camp attendance are **mandatory** for band and guard members. The band is involved in marching activities for approximately the first ten weeks of the fall semester. Students must attend Band Camp which is held at South River High School (see attached for details) in order to be eligible to participate in Fall Performances. **We reinforce and encourage students who take the Band Class at South River High School to participate in the after school activities so that this effort will result in a total aesthetic enrichment of their music experience.**

South River Instrumental Music Program "Fair-Share Policy"

Students who participate in other activities in and around South River High School (i.e. athletics, clubs, leadership, ROTC, Community College, work/work-study) will be included in the recently updated "Fair-Share" policy. The policy is designed so that all students with an interest and desire to participate in a music ensemble and be a part of other intrinsically rewarding groups have the opportunity. Students who are eligible for "Fair-Share" will divide their time between after school ensembles and other activities so that they will participate for **no less than 45 minutes to 1 hour** with their music ensemble of choice before heading to their next activity. Students enrolled in *Fair-Share* must arrive on time for each rehearsal and stay for the required time; grading in class may be effected. Coaches, sponsors, and other personnel will be advised of each music students participating in their organizations, in an attempt to minimize any overlap or penalty. Students enrolled in this program can have **two unexcused absences** from any after school rehearsals without penalty. Music experiences like these are rich and varied in order to develop your son/daughter into a highly proficient instrumentalist. Student self esteem is enhanced. The total team effort to music performance is developed over and beyond the classroom.

**Students with special extenuating circumstances will need to have a meeting with Mr. Cavanaugh and their parents before the beginning of the semester in order to review their situation and decide if an “extended musical experience” option may be explored in order to continue taking band as outlined above.*

Remember! We’re here to have fun and make memorable moments. The courtesy of timeliness is an *EXPECTATION* for *ALL* music students. By arriving early to scheduled camp start times allows for a more effective management of daily activities. Failure to meet these expectations may result in extended time spent after the regularly scheduled camp days, consequences issued by the camp director and instructional staff, extra duties assigned to specific sections, and the wrath of friends and band mates which may include wet willies or other pranks.

Please be on time by being early and encourage those around you to do the same.

If we “**Band Together!**” we can accomplish much together. This motto will serve as our unifying goal for this season and be the subject of discussions, pep talks, and t shirts. Let’s “**Band Together!**” make music memorable for ourselves and our school and local communities.

VIII. How to Register for Camp:

Complete the attached registration and medical forms, include **\$85.00** fee, and mail to:

South River Music Boosters
Attn: Summer Band Camp
201 Central Ave East
Edgewater, MD. 21037

Make checks payable to the South River Music Boosters. If you need any additional information concerning the camp or have further questions, please check our website: www.southernrivermusic.org, or contact Gerald Cavanaugh at 410-956-7888 or gcavanaugh@aacps.org.

Thank you.



SOUTH RIVER HIGH SCHOOL BAND CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the enclosed medical and registration forms and return both forms to Gerald Cavanaugh, gcavanaugh@aacps.org, at South River High School, 201 Central Ave E., Edgewater, MD. 21037.

REFUNDS WILL BE MADE ONLY IF THE CAMP IS CANCELED.

Yes my son or Daughter will participate in the South River Band camp

Week 1 (August 1-5, 2011) ONLY

Week 2 (August 8-12, 2011) ONLY

Both Weeks (August 1-12, 2011)

No my son/daughter will not participate in the South River Band Camp.

*Please send completed forms back whether or not your son/daughter is participating

Student Name _____ Previous School _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

Emergency Phone () _____

T-shirt size _____ (XSm, Sm, Med, L, XL, XXL)

Instrument(s) your son/ daughter plays _____ Guard (Check Here) _____

Parent(s) or Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____



South River High School Band Camp Medical Information Form

Parents please complete all information on this form, sign and return with band camp registration application and fee. Your child will not be allowed to participate without this form completed and signed by parent or guardian.
(This form does not require a medical doctor's signature)

My child _____ has my permission to attend the South River High School Band Camp from **August 1 through August 12, 2011.**

I understand the camp will be properly chaperoned and supervised at all times. I will not hold the Music Director, Principal, Board of Education, Chaperones or camp staff responsible in case of an accident.

1. List any physical restrictions (if any)

2. List any allergies that may affect participation in this activity

3. List any restrictions (if any) to medication that may be dispensed for headaches, colds, sore throats, etc,

4. List any other special consideration or past medical history that may restrict your child's participation in this activity

I further understand that if my child is involved in a discipline problem, he/she may be sent home or expelled from the camp with no refund.

Illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages or smoking will not be permitted at any time.

My permission is also given for my child to receive emergency treatment in case of injury or accident. I further understand that I am responsible for any medical expenses that are not covered by my insurance policy.

Use the back of this form if you have any additional medical information about your son/daughter.

Student's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

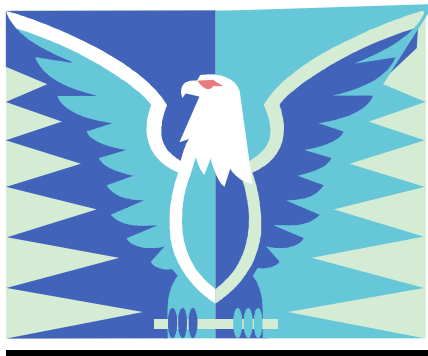
(Please include area code on all phone numbers)

Phone numbers _____

Emergency Contact _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____



South River Sea Hawk Social Contract

(**PLEASE MAKE A COPY AND KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**)

I, the undersigned Parent/Guardian of _____, (student name) do hereby agree to the policies and expectations set forth in this document regarding my son/daughter's involvement in the South River High School Instrumental Music Program, and agree to follow the requests made by the directors and staff in order to ensure a fair and equitable experience for all students who choose to participate. I have included the necessary Band Camp fee of \$85.00, or I have spoken with the Director and Treasurer in order to establish a feasible means to submit the necessary payments. I acknowledge that there are Director's fees both semesters and agree to pay them in a timely manner.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Parent Name: _____

I the undersigning student _____, (student name) do hereby agree to the policies and expectations set forth in this document regarding my involvement in the South River High School Instrumental Music Program, and agree to follow the requests made by the Director and staff in order to ensure a fair and equitable experience for all students who choose to participate. I realize that if I choose to violate these policies that my involvement in the South River High School Instrumental Music Program will be forfeit, and I will lose all privileges and deposits accordant with this program.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Student Name: _____

Return this signed document to Mr. Cavanaugh by Day 2 of Band Camp 2011

Instrumental Music Director / Music Department
South River High School
204 Central Ave East
Edgewater, MD 21037

Approved by: _____ Date: _____