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--Schedule of events --

The following events are scheduled as of this printing. Other events, both required and voluntary, will be scheduled as they become available.

December 6, 2014	A/AA/AAA Middle School All-Region Auditions in Shallowater 10:15 AM – 5:00 PM
December 11, 2014	Southcrest Christmas Program at Southcrest Baptist Church Elementary Music 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM Bands 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM
December 13, 2014	HS Honor Band Auditions in Idalou 11:45 AM – 5:00 PM
January 10, 2015	HS Area/All State Auditions in Idalou Only students advancing from the HS Honor Band
January 15, 2015	A/AA/AAA HS All-Region auditions in Abernathy Time TBA
January 23 – 24, 2015	All-Region Clinics and Concerts at Lubbock Civic Center All day, both days All selected students from auditions

Director of Bands

Mr. Rick Driscoll B.M.E. - Music Education
rdriscoll@southcrest.org
(806) 797-7400
Band/Choir Suite

Biography

Mr. Driscoll is a native of West Texas and was raised in and near Spearman. Upon completion of high school, he attended West Texas State University and McMurry College where he met and married his wife, Susie. He and Susie have two children, Shannon and Jeremy, and two grandsons, Bryce and Brennan. Mr. Driscoll successfully taught band in the Texas communities of Spur, Jayton, Sunray, Seymour, Bridgeport, and Lubbock. After thirty-two years of teaching, Mr. Driscoll retired from the Texas Public School system and became the founder and director of the Southcrest Christian School band. He currently is in his sixth year at Southcrest. In addition, Mr. Driscoll performs on trumpet with the Westwind Brass Band, the Llano Brass Quintet, the Lubbock Concert Band, the Hub City Jazz Orchestra, the Southcrest Baptist Church Orchestra, and Finesse.

Mr. Driscoll received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at the age of eighteen in July of 1972. He has consistently served Jesus and the church as pastor, youth director, choir director, instrumental director, sound technician, and is currently the orchestra director for Southcrest Baptist Church.

Course Purpose

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Romans 12:5-6

As Christians, we can perform music to honor God. In band, we will learn to honor the Lord individually and cooperatively as one “body” not only by developing our musical skills, but also by shaping our personal characters as we use self-discipline, diligence, cooperation, and teamwork.

The expected outcomes for students completing music education in band beyond developing musical skills would be highly developed leadership traits, citizenship, heightened spiritual self-expression, better academic performance, lifelong personal fulfillment, and a better quality of life as suggested by the evidence of countless research conclusions.

Course Description and Objectives

Students in the 5th Grade Beginner, 6th Grade Intermediate, Jr. High, and High School Bands will learn instrumental performing using the Essential Elements 2000 (volumes 1 and 2), Essential Technique (volume 3), and correlated Essential Elements supplemental materials along with a variety of warm-ups, technical exercises, band music, field trips, small ensembles, and solo repertoire.

Students will gain a variety of valuable musical and life experiences in the SCS Band Program. Students will be able to perform music at or above grade level. Participating students will gain an understanding of and an appreciation for various music styles and will develop musical worship skills. Understanding and performing music includes learning both the science and art of music. The science of music includes notation and pitches, rhythms, scales/keys, various articulations, dynamics, breathing, phrasing, listening skills, section playing, solo playing, ensemble playing and sight-reading. The art of music consists of combining these components in intelligent, creative, spiritual and emotional expression. Students will become aware of the musical nuances and phrasing, and they will develop decision-making skills in performing a musical work. Through committed and focused work, students will improve in the areas of self-control, self-motivation, self-discipline, empathy, patience, commitment, and dedication.

Band is a performance-based course of study and is taught at several levels of student progression. However, each level is a part of the whole body identified as the Southcrest Christian School Band. Throughout the year, each level will have performance opportunities both separately and combined in keeping with Romans 12:5-6.

Intermediate Band

The Intermediate Band consists of 6th grade students who have completed 5th Grade Beginner Band or are new incoming students who have not yet had beginning band experience. These students are advancing into higher levels of musicianship and performance responsibilities, since they have already mastered beginning skills. Beginner students are encouraged to pursue private lessons to assist them as they strive to participate at the 6th grade Intermediate level. Members are building the necessary technique and abilities to continue on to the Advanced Bands.

Advanced Bands

The 7th/8th grade Jr. High Band and the 9th/12th grade Sr. High Bands are involved in Southcrest's highest level of competition and performance. The Advanced Bands are comprised of extremely dedicated musicians who share the desire to further their musical studies in the most advanced setting offered at SCS. (Beginning players are welcome only upon evaluation by the band director and an understanding that they will participate in private lessons as the musical demands are significantly challenging.) The level of personal commitment and responsibility to the groups are extremely high, as each member is vital to the ensemble. These groups are unique in their musical variety and combinations of ensemble repertoire; their members are committed to musical excellence.

Instruments

Students are responsible for both obtaining and maintaining their instrument in performing condition. It is important that every student comes to rehearsal with his or her instrument ready to play. This includes, for example, having good reeds or valves that move freely and are not stuck. Instruments may be purchased or rented from almost any music store. Inferior instruments are a detriment to student learning and ensemble quality. Such instruments will not be allowed in the band program at Southcrest. To accommodate selecting and maintaining an instrument, Mr. Driscoll has selected Tarpley's Music and Jent's House of Music to service the band program at SCS. Both businesses have a rent-to-own program that covers damage, insurance, repairs, and several other benefits. Other options would include Craig's List, Ebay, local want ads, and pawn shops. However, parents and students should be very careful about these and should consult Mr. Driscoll before purchasing. Done correctly, considerable cost and hassle can be avoided while creating a learning experience when purchasing an instrument. SCS has a very limited supply of instruments available to rent for \$90 per school year (\$10 per month). These instruments are available on a first come/first serve basis. Please see the director for more information.

Music stores in our area:

Tarpley's Music - 3737 West 50th

Jent's House of Music – 10901 University

Accessories

In order to insure that each student receives the fullest educational benefit that he or she deserves, maintains their instrument properly, and is organized and prepared, the following accessories are essential in class every day.

All	Black 3-ring notebook with inside pockets Appropriate class level method book Pencil with eraser (or two) Instrument Care Kit
Clarinets, Saxes, Oboes, Bassoons	4 good quality working reeds Reed case Cork grease
Brass	Valve/Slide oil, Tuning slide grease
Percussion	Vic Firth American Classic 2B snare drum sticks, wood tip Vic Firth 5A snare drum sticks, wood tip Vic Firth T1 General timpani mallets Musser M207 marimba mallets (dark blue yarn) Musser M23 bell/xylophone mallets (Clear Lexan) Stick bag large enough to hold all of the above Drum practice pad

Facilities

The facilities at Southcrest are shared by many groups from both the church and the school. The rehearsal area for the band is no exception. The large ensemble rehearsal room, referred to hereafter as the “band/choir room” is located just inside the east building entrance. Because of the large number of visitors that enter the church through that entrance, the south door to the band/choir room will remain locked during school hours. Students will enter the band/choir room via the north hall and band/choir suite corridor. The corridor to the band/choir room contains three practice rooms, Mr. Driscoll's office, several storage closets, a stairwell, and a church music library. Students may use the two designated band closets to store their instruments and band materials during the day. The rooms, office, stairwell and library may be used by students for independent practice alone or in pairs, small ensemble practice, or section practice both during the band rehearsal and at other times during the day. At no time may a student enter one of these rooms without Mr. Driscoll/or a designated school official supervising in the band/choir suite.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are highly recommended for all band students to continue their musical studies in a one-on-one setting, especially as students advance to the junior high and high school performance levels. For assistance in attaining the services of a qualified private teacher, please contact Mr. Driscoll.

Performance Attire

Correct performance attire will be required at all of the band's performances. Correct performance attire is determined by the venue or type of concert being performed and will be communicated to the parents and band students in a timely manner prior to the performances. These may be as simple as band T's and Blue Jeans to as formal as a specified Concert Black.

Grading

Band grades for Beginning and Intermediate Band students will be determined as follows:

Daily Grade	35%
Practice Record	15%
Tests	25%
Performance Attendance	25%

Band grades for students in Advanced Bands will be determined as follows:

Daily Grade	50%
Tests	25%
Performance Attendance	25%

Daily Grade

Students are expected to fully participate in every rehearsal. To do so requires students to be present and on time, to come prepared with all equipment and supplies, to maintain a positive attitude for learning, and to exhibit good behavior. The degree to which the student accomplishes these learning objectives will be assessed weekly by the director. Examples of a student not exhibiting mastery of these objectives would be forgotten instrument or supplies, tardiness, off-task or disruptive behavior, or lack of preparation.

Practice Record

5th Grade Beginner and 6th Grade Intermediate Band students will be required to practice 15 minutes per day, 5 days per week. At the beginning of the following week, Sunday or Monday, a parent will email the grade to Mr. Driscoll. In the event that the family does not have internet access, a handwritten record signed by the parent will suffice. The grading scale is as follows:

5+ days	100
4 days	90
3 days	80
2 days	70
1 day	50
0 days	0

If a student cannot complete the required number of practice days due to illness, Mr. Driscoll may adjust the grade upward or excuse it altogether.

The goal is improvement and the method is consistency. Therefore, the grade is based on the number of days practiced rather than total amount of time. Thirty minutes of practice on a single day does not count as two days, and less than 15 minutes of practice per day does not count as a day at all.

Practice Tips: Practice at a *regular* time every day. Have a designated place to practice. Practicing for smaller amounts of time on a daily basis is more effective than several hours of practice all in one day. Work *slowly*, practicing what has been presented in class. Set small goals and work in short sections. Do not just play the entire piece or excerpt over and over. Try one or two measures at a time.

Be disciplined and committed. Play something just for fun at the end of the session.

As members of the Advanced Band, students are responsible for their own musicianship. Practice records are not required. However, students will be given weekly excerpts or scales to perform for Mr. Driscoll. It is up to the individual to determine the amount of practice time necessary to pass their weekly playing assignment and skillfully contribute to the ensemble music. These assignments will be separate from the scheduled tests. In the event that it is determined that a student is not progressing as well as expected, a graded practice regime may be individually assigned.

Tests

Tests are a valuable tool to assess to what degree each student has mastered the musical competencies presented in class. These tests may be written or performed, but in all instances, students will know well in advance what material they are to prepare or be responsible for.

Performance Attendance

For a musician, the concert performance is the final exam. In keeping with Romans 12:5-6, each and every member of the body is vital to the whole body. In band, missing just one student, for example, could cause the absence of an important melody line or part in a concert piece therefore detracting from and undermining the efforts of the whole ensemble. Band students *must* be present at all required concerts, competitions, or events. A calendar of events may be found on page two of the SCS Band Handbook. Please take special notice of which events are required for which ensembles. If a student has a prior conflict and is unable to attend the performance, the *parent* must let the director know at least *three* weeks prior to the performance in order to receive an excused absence. An assignment will be issued in place of the performance to make up the points *if* the absence has been excused by the director. If the absence has not been excused, no points or make-up assignments will be given and the student will receive a zero for the performance grade. Illness and/or family emergencies will be taken into consideration for excused absences without three weeks prior notice. As is the nature of band, performances will be added that are not on the calendar of events in the SCS Band Handbook. These additions will be communicated to the parents and students as they are added. It is the *parents'* responsibility to notify Mr. Driscoll at the earliest possible date of any conflict that arises from the additional performances. In this case, unresolvable conflicts with other scheduled events will be excused. A make-up assignment may or may not be necessary.

Eligibility

Band is an *academic* course of study and is *co-curricular* in nature. Students are expected, as their first priority, to be diligent in their studies and to achieve at the highest level in all of their academic studies. Band also offers activities that are vital to the course and are *extracurricular* in nature. A student's academic liability to pass all of their classes with a minimum grade of 70 is one factor in determining a student's eligibility to participate in the *extracurricular* activities of the band.

An *extracurricular* activity is an activity not necessarily directly related to instruction of the essential knowledge and skills but may have an indirect relation to some areas of the curriculum. *Extracurricular* activities include, but are not limited to, public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities, with the exception of public performances specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

1. An activity shall be considered an *extracurricular* activity if any one of the following criteria apply:

- A. the activity is competitive;
- B. the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular;
- C. the activity is held off campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;
- D. the general public is invited; or
- E. an admission is charged.

2. A student, ineligible to participate in an *extracurricular* activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- A. Only the criterion listed in paragraph (1)(D) of this subsection applies to the performance.
- B. The requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.

The criteria for determining grade-related eligibility for *extracurricular* activities is as follows:

A student who has not maintained a passing grade of 70 or above at the end of a nine-week grading period in all courses is not eligible to participate in the *extracurricular* activities of the band for the following nine-week grading period. The student may still practice or rehearse with the group during this time period. A student who has lost eligibility due to grades may regain eligibility at the three-week or six-week progress reporting time if it is determined that the student has attained a passing grade of 70 or above in all classes. A student who has passed all of his/her courses with a 70 or above at the nine-week grading period report, or an ineligible student who has regained eligibility at the three or six-week progress report, may not lose eligibility again due to grades within that nine-week grading period.

Once grades have been determined, there will be a seven-calendar, day rule in effect for participation in extracurricular activities. For example, if a grading period concludes on Friday at 4:00 pm and a student has not maintained a 70 or above in a course, then that student will not be able to participate in any extra curricular event after 4:00 pm on the *following* Friday. On the other hand, a student who regains eligibility would be able to participate in an extracurricular event after 4:00 pm on the *following* Friday as well.

Requirements for eligibility for special education students shall be determined by the student's ARD committee during the first grading period and included in the student's IEP. If it is determined that the student has not met the requirements of their IEP at the end of each grading period, the student will be on the same time-line for regaining eligibility as the regular education student.

At the discretion of the school district, a student enrolled in an honors designated course may elect a one-time waiver of loss of grade-related eligibility pertaining to the honors course.

Other non-academic standards exist that determine eligibility for participation, such as age, grade, and transfer, which are not included in this document. Those eligibility rules are clearly outlined within the rules of the governing agencies from which they come.

The Southcrest Bands exist under the jurisdiction of the Accreditation Commission of the Texas Association of Baptist Schools (ACTABS), which is under the jurisdiction of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and abide under the terms for eligibility as stated by those governing agencies. In addition, Southcrest Bands compete within the organizational structures of the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). While these organizations have aligned their eligibility requirements to the standards of TEA, some discrepancies do occur and there are variances in the interpretations of the rules. In all instances of question, the Southcrest School Board will make the final determination, and their ruling may not be appealed.

General Conduct

Expectations for rehearsals, sectionals, and performances:

- 1. Students will be on time with their instrument in performing condition, seated in a timely manner, and with all music and materials needed. Students who fail to do so will be considered tardy and a deduction from the daily or performance grade will be made. Student will also face disciplinary measures beginning with the third occurrence of negligence in arriving with materials needed for class and/or negligence in maintaining their instrument.**
- 2. Students are not permitted to eat in the band room directly before or during rehearsal. Students may have water in a clear plastic bottle with a lid. Chewing gum during rehearsal or performance is also not permitted.**
- 3. Students and adults must respect others' property. Students are not to play on anyone's instrument other than their own. Only percussionists are to perform, play, or touch percussion instruments unless otherwise instructed by Mr. Driscoll. Horseplay is not acceptable in the band room. Both students and parents are responsible for repair or replacement of any instrument damaged by misconduct or inappropriate behavior.**
- 4. Prior to rehearsal, students may, with Mr. Driscoll's permission, carefully and intelligently warm-up.**
- 5. After rehearsal, students must quickly care for their instrument and put away all materials.**
- 6. Students are expected to demonstrate weekly musical improvement.**
- 7. Students must be courteous and considerate, talking only when allowed, and raising a hand until acknowledged by the director. Playing out of turn or playing while the director is talking is disruptive, disrespectful, and unacceptable.**
- 8. Students must follow directions and instructions the first time and must stay on task.**
- 9. Students must learn to listen intently. The student must listen not only to their own playing, but to their neighbor's, their section's, a different section's, and the whole band's playing for the elements of performance.**
- 10. Students are expected to know and demonstrate proper concert etiquette at all concert performances.**
- 11. Students must remain in full uniform at all performances until Mr. Driscoll instructs them otherwise.**
- 12. During alarms/drills, students, for their safety, are to remain silent and follow directions and procedures immediately.**
- 13. Students must follow all school rules as listed in the student handbook.**

Elements of Performance

Music Performance Goals

1. **Tone** - Having the characteristic sound of the instrument
2. **Rhythm** - Performing precise and accurate rhythms
3. **Pitch** - Performing the correct notes (F, F#, B, C)
4. **Articulation** - Slurred, tongued, staccato, legato, accented, etc.
5. **Dynamics** - *pp* (very soft) to *ff* (very loud)
6. **Phrasing** - Shaping the musical thought, breathing only at the appropriate spot (not every note or measure)
7. **Balance/Blend** - Not over-blowing one's playing partner but complimenting them with one's sound

Student Leadership

Using Christ as our example, leaders are servants. Each member must demonstrate a genuine concern for the musical, moral, and spiritual welfare of the group, demonstrated by a willingness to serve others, showing positive leadership, and encouraging others to do the same. Each member must attend all events, arriving early and leaving only after all of the work is finished. Each leadership team member must set a positive example in the way he/she conducts him/herself every day in rehearsal.

Band President

The President must put the needs of the band ahead of his/her own personal needs or desires. The President will be called upon to lead the band in the absence of the Director. He/she must be sensitive to the morale of the band and communicate student morale to the Director. The President will lead special student projects and will assist the Band Director in any way possible for the proper functioning of the band.

Band Vice-President

The Vice-President is responsible for assisting the President and Secretary in carrying out their duties and is responsible for taking accurate attendance at all band events. The Vice-President will assist the Band Director in any way possible for the proper functioning of the band.

Band Secretary

The band secretary is responsible for organizing, maintaining, and copying music from the music library, assisting with the clerical work involved in fund raising, and assisting the director with record keeping.

Fundraisers

From time to time, it will be necessary to have fundraisers to supply the necessary money to run the band program and purchase equipment. Mr. Driscoll asks that every student participate fully in every fundraiser. This is a part of working together as a member of our team and is a way to instill the habit of stewardship of time and treasure. Thank you in advance for helping to make our fundraisers a success this year.

Band Boosters

The Band Booster organization shall be operated as a nonprofit organization exclusively for the support of musical education, and as such, will support the following purposes:

1. To stimulate and sustain an enthusiastic interest among parents, band members, student body, and other members of the SCS community.
2. To lend all possible support, both moral and financial, to the general Band Program of SCS.
3. To cooperate with those in charge of the Band Department, the School Administration, and the Board of Education to the end that this department shall maintain the highest possible degree of efficiency.
4. To build and maintain an organization of interested citizens who will help promote the general activities of the Band Department at SCS.
5. To glorify God by modeling appropriate Christian servant-leadership through the support of a God-honoring music education in grades 5-12; and through obedience to Scripture and to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all decision-making, communication, and activity.
6. To support the band director in the execution of his/her duties, providing help where needed, and showing respect for the authority of his/her position, in word and deed, to the band students.
7. To provide for the financial needs of the band when needs go beyond what is provided by Southcrest Christian School.
8. To provide for the additional needs of the music program as determined by the music directors and school administration.

Membership

The membership is open to all parent(s) or guardian(s) of students participating in band in grades 5 – 12.

Dues

There are no dues for membership in The Boosters.

Parents: Please attend Music Booster meetings and be active in Music Booster sponsored fundraisers and events for the benefit of your child and the music programs.

FOR PARENTS

HOW CAN I HELP WITH PRACTICE AT HOME?

It is important for parents to offer encouragement and support. Your child will catch on to some things very easily. There will be times, however, when a technique or concept will be difficult to learn. This is when your child will need you the most.

You can help your student to develop good practice habits. Here are some suggestions on how to help achieve good practice habits:

- 1. HAVE A SET TIME TO PRACTICE EACH DAY. Help your student make a wise choice about when this time will be.**
- 2. PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PLACE TO PRACTICE. Your student should have a straight chair to sit on, a music stand, and ample lighting.**
- 3. HELP MAKE PRACTICE TIME FREE OF INTERRUPTIONS.**
- 4. ASK YOUR CHILD TO PLAY CLASS ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOU.**
- 5. HAVE PATIENCE IN REMINDING YOUR STUDENT TO PRACTICE DAILY.**
- 6. MAKE MUSIC A FAMILY ACTIVITY. Take your student to hear a concert. Purchase recordings of good musical performances. Have your child perform a family mini-concert.**
- 7. ENCOURAGE AND PRAISE YOUR CHILD DAILY.**

Performance Travel

As a parent of a member of the Southcrest Christian School Band, I realize that there will be times when travel to another campus or school district will be necessary in order to perform at that venue. I hereby give my consent for my student, _____, to travel in the Church buses, or school arranged passenger vehicles for all performances of the 2014-2015 school year. I give consent only for the reason of performances and competitions and understand that a separate school form must be completed for all other off-campus field trips.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact information: cell or home phone _____
work phone _____

Emergency contact person: _____

Contact information: cell or home phone _____
work phone _____

Band Handbook Agreement

2014-2015

I have read the 2014-2015 Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained therein. I will prayerfully do my best to bring glory to God in every endeavor with the Southcrest Christian School Band through diligence, commitment, and cooperation.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent(s) signature:

Father: _____

Date: _____

--or--

Mother: _____

Date: _____

--or--

Guardian: _____

Date: _____