



South County High School Orchestra

Marci Swift, Director

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Dear SCHS Concert Orchestra Members and Parents,

The South County High School Concert Orchestra participate in the District X Orchestra Assessment on **Friday, March 1st at Falls Church HS**. Orchestra Assessment is a state-wide event and is a highly educational and rewarding experience for all participants. *As a member of the South County HS Orchestra program, your child is **expected** to participate in the Orchestra Assessment as a graded course component which is clearly outlined in the Orchestra Handbook.*

The District X Orchestra Assessment is designed to enrich your child's music education. The orchestra will prepare three musical selections to perform for a panel of judges. The judges provide the ensemble with written comments as well as an overall score representing the quality of the performance. In addition, the orchestra will sight-read a piece of music for a separate judge who will also provide comments and a score. The comments and scores help assess, as well as reinforce, the music learning obtained in the classroom.

*Members of the SCHS Concert Orchestra will travel by school bus to and from Falls Church HS. **Students should bring their orchestra concert uniform to school on Friday, March 1.** Family and friends are welcome to attend the performance which will take place in the Falls Church HS auditorium at 5:50pm. The Orchestra will sight-read immediately following the performance in a different room (this performance is NOT open to the audience). **All students are to be picked up at South County HS at 7:30pm.** It will be the responsibility of the parent and student to make transportation arrangements home from Falls Church HS.*

In order to ensure that we are adequately prepared for Orchestra Assessment, *there will be a Pre-Assessment Concert on Thursday, February 28th at South County High School at 7:00 pm.* This performance is also a graded component of this course. *Students should report to SCHS at 6:15 pm in their Orchestra uniform ready for tuning and warm-up.*

Please acknowledge your awareness of these upcoming Assessment-related events by completing the attached field trip permission form and returning it by February 8th. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Swift.

Sincerely,

Marci Swift
Orchestra Director