

SOUNDS OF SUCCESS CORPORATION

“WHERE MUSIC BUILDS CHARACTER”

MEMBER & PARENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026 Season



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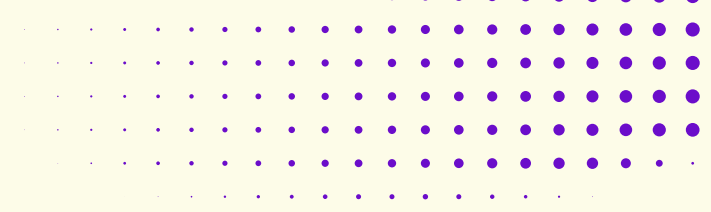
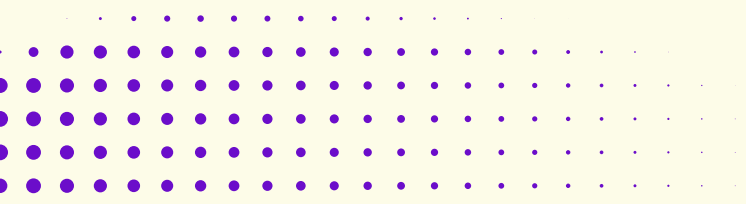


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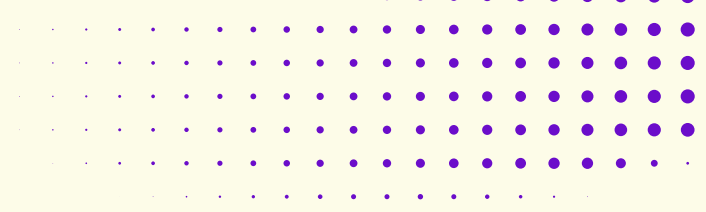
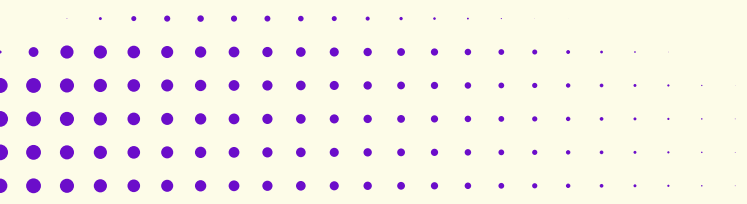


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Welcome Message

Dear Members and Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 season of the Sounds of Success Music Corporation (SOS)! We are excited to have you as part of our growing musical community — a place where rhythm, culture, discipline, and education unite to create something truly extraordinary.

Whether your child is joining us for the first time or returning to continue their growth, you are now part of a movement that inspires excellence on and off the field. Through music, mentorship, and leadership, we prepare youth for bright futures — both in performance and in life.

This handbook outlines our expectations, schedules, policies, and support systems to help your student thrive. Please review it carefully and reach out if you have questions. We look forward to an exciting season of growth, community, and unforgettable performances.

With gratitude,

Antoine Miller



Antoine Miller

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

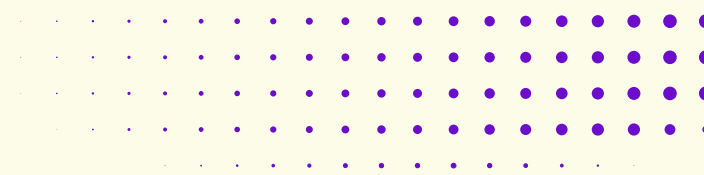
Mission

To create a musical community that is rich with cultural, social, and intellectual diversity while preparing each student with a solid foundation in music and an expansive education in the liberal arts. To advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music by all of our musicians to the end that they will be prepared to develop musical skills and understandings to the highest potential in their own future.



Core Values

- **Excellence** – Striving for the highest standards in all we do
- **Discipline** – Consistent effort, punctuality, and preparedness
- **Teamwork** – Collaboration and unity among members and families
- **Cultural Pride** – Celebrating diversity through music and movement
- **Academic Commitment** – Balancing the arts with scholastic achievement
- **Service** – Giving back through mentorship and community engagement



Program Overview

Age & Eligibility

Open to youth age 8 through age 21, regardless of prior musical experience. Must provide a valid school district issued student ID.

**Students 19 and older must provide a valid IEP/504 along with a valid school district ID*

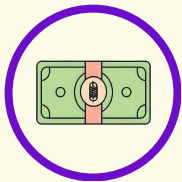
Program Components

- Marching Band
- Concert Band
- Choir
- Dance (Auxiliary Team)
- Academic Support & College Prep

Season Timeline at a Glance

- August–June: Weekly rehearsals, performances, tutoring, competitions
- Notable Events: Parades, community showcases, Battle of the Bands, college tours
- 2026 Feature Trip: New Orleans (Feb. 4-Feb. 8)

Membership Requirements



Registration Fee

- \$20 per family (ages 8–21 must provide student ID)



Monthly Dues

- Due by the 1st of each month. Late fee of \$10 will be added after the 3rd of each month.
- \$25 (1 child), \$35 (2 children), \$45 (3 children), \$55 (4+ children)
- Auxiliary



Required in-kind donations (monthly)

- 1 case Zephyrhills water
- 1 case Gatorade or Powerade
- 1 box snacks (chips, granola bars, etc.)

These donations support rehearsals, performances, and travel readiness.

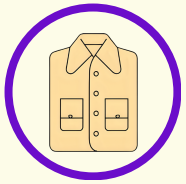


Uniform & Equipment Cost

- Practice Gear – \$12 set (\$6 shirt / \$6 pants) – required at every rehearsal beginning September 2, 2025. Students should wear a plain white shirt until gear arrives.
- Band uniform package (sweatsuit, gloves): \$150 total
- Auxiliary uniform: \$150 total

*All performance uniform package fee's are due by 9/19/25**

Membership Requirements

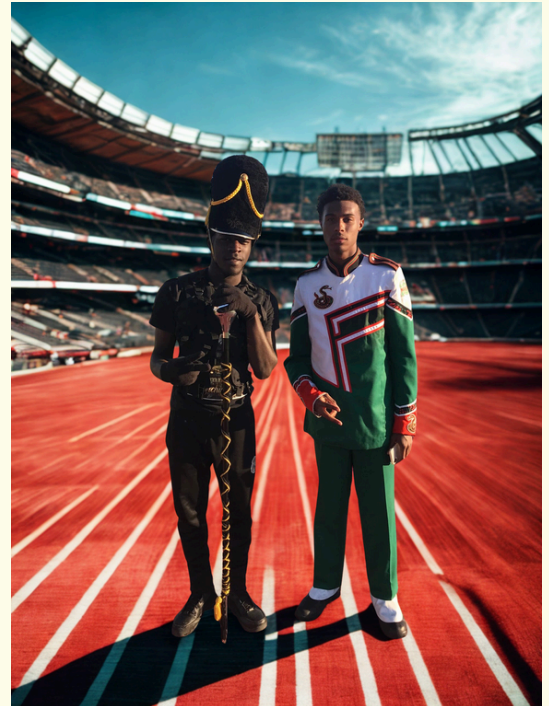


Uniform & Equipment Cost Cont.

- Band Shirt – \$25 must be worn under the uniform during all performances.
- Shoes & Cap – Metallic Gold LED Light-Up Hightops and Metallic Gold Cap (order by October 1, 2025 via BAND App/Amazon).
- Uniform Inspections – Full uniform (sweatsuit, gloves, hat, shirt, shoes, spats, black socks) is required. Students not in proper uniform will not be allowed to perform.
 - Installment payment option: Initial \$87.50 due on 9/5 and second installment \$87.50 due 9/19

Optional Items

- SOS Travel Bag (embroidered) – \$65 (due September 22, 2025)
- SOS Book Bag (embroidered) – \$40 (due September 22, 2025)
- SOS Letterman Jacket – starting at \$100 (due October 1, 2025; price varies with add-ons)





Academic Success Commitment

Overview

Our program is committed to supporting the academic success of every member. Time is provided upon arrival for members to work on homework; however, staff members are not permitted to check backpacks or personal belongings for assignments. If a member states that no homework was assigned, staff will acknowledge the response, with the understanding that parents and guardians are responsible for confirming academic obligations. We recognize that rehearsals conclude at 7:00 p.m. and are both physically and mentally demanding. Nonetheless, academic excellence requires discipline and perseverance. Members are expected to demonstrate personal responsibility and reliability by completing any unfinished assignments at home to maintain strong academic performance.

GPA Requirement

- Minimum 2.0 GPA to remain an active participant verified through school district report cards.

Progress Report Submissions

- Weekly progress report due every **Friday**, signed by teachers.
- Tracks behavior, assignments, and current grades.

Tutoring & Homework Help

- Offered Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:00–6:30 PM
- Quiet space also available before rehearsals

College Readiness Support

- SOS staff support audition prep, portfolio building, and college applications
- Families are encouraged to monitor bookbags and communicate with teachers

"Success is a MUST/failures are choices"

Rehearsal & Performance Expectations

Overview

Rehearsals are held Monday through Thursday, 4:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. All participants are required to attend every rehearsal. In the event of inclement weather, rehearsals will be conducted in compliance with Palm Beach County School District policies and safety procedures.

Regular attendance is mandatory for all members. Absences disrupt the rehearsal process by creating gaps in music, marching drills, and formations. Members who are present will not be required to make accommodations for those who fail to attend rehearsals. Repeated or unexcused absences may result in loss of performance privileges or removal from the program.



Performance Attire

- Complete official SOS uniform required to perform
- No modifications unless approved by director



Attendance Policy

- All rehearsals and sectionals are **mandatory**
- Absences must be excused in advance with documentation
- 2 or more unexcused absences may result in performance removal

Rehearsal & Performance Expectations



Required Items

- Pencil
- Music folder with protector sheets
- Drill charts
- Instrument and appropriate gear
- Bottled water jug



Dress code

- SOS rehearsal gear or plain white shirt until uniforms arrive
- Closed-toe shoes only — no sandals or flip-flops

***Frequent water breaks will be provided to keep students hydrated.
In accordance with school district safety guidelines outdoor practice will be moved indoors if the heat index reaches 105°F or higher. Band practices are closed to parents and visitors to ensure a safe and focused environment for all students*



Travel Guidelines

Safety & Conduct

- All students must travel with the band to official performances
- Quiet during check-ins; trash removed before exiting buses
- Respect for hotel rules, property, and curfews is required

Housing & Curfew

- Youth roomed by age group and gender (middle, high school, etc.)
- Curfews strictly enforced — parent chaperones must be pre-approved
- Curfew checks and security measures (e.g., door tape) used respectfully

Packing checklist

- SOS uniform, performance shoes, extra socks, personal hygiene products
- Daily toiletries
- Medications (in original containers) if needed

Parent/guardian travel expectations

- Must purchase SOS chaperone shirt to ride buses or access team areas
- Chaperones expected to assist with supervision and logistics



Code of Conduct & Discipline

Respect & teamwork expectations

- Students represent SOS, their city, and community — excellence is expected
- No profanity, bullying, theft, or disrespectful behavior tolerated
- No drugs, alcohol, or other substance use- this will result in immediate dismissal

Technology Use

- **No cell phones** allowed during rehearsals or performances

Disciplinary Approach

- First: Verbal reminder
- Second: Parent contact
- Third: Temporary removal
- Severe or repeated issues may result in dismissal

Zero-tolerance policies

- Use/possession of drugs, alcohol, weapons
- Harassment or endangerment of peers/staff

Parent and Volunteer Engagement

Volunteer Opportunities

- Chaperones
- Fundraising coordinators
- Event set-up and hospitality

Chaperone requirements & benefits

- Monthly \$20 fee includes polo, event access, and transportation
- Must wear official SOS shirt at events
- Designated chaperone parents will have full access to the band during away competitions and Battle of the Bands events to provide support and supervision.

Communication Channels

- Band App (text 561-331-5038 to join)
- Email notifications
- Monthly parent meetings



Health & Safety Protocols

Illness prevention guidelines

- Stay home if sick or showing symptoms
- Handwashing and sanitizing required
- Staff disinfect shared surfaces regularly

Emergency Procedures

- Emergency contacts and medical forms must be submitted
- On-site first aid kit and staff trained in basic response

Incident reporting process

- Any injuries or concerns must be reported to staff immediately



"We take full pride in our culture"

Meet The Team



**Dominique
Derraco- Franklin**

Director of Auxiliary

Mr. Derraco-Franklin serves as the head of all auxiliaries, including the Dance and Flag teams. With a passion for performance and leadership, he is dedicated to developing student talent, building teamwork, and ensuring excellence across all auxiliary units.



Ciara Spirvey

Fundraising

With 4 years of experience coordinating fundraisers and organizing parent chaperones, Ms. Spirvey plays a vital role in supporting the success of the marching band. Dedicated and community-minded, she helps ensure that events run smoothly and that students have the resources and guidance they need to thrive.



Shantell Nesbit

Secretary

Born and raised in Riviera Beach, FL, Ms. Nesbitt began dancing at age 3 and joined the Girls in Motion Dance Troupe in 2004. Trained in African, Jazz, Ballet, Modern, Step, and Street Dance, she has worked with mentors such as Eddie Green, Tarik Boom, and Dominique Derraco-Franklin, and trained under renowned choreographers including Keenan Cooks. After years of training and performing from New York to Los Angeles, she returned home in 2018 to give back through SOS, where she now shares her passion for dance with the next generation—including her own children who proudly participate in the SOS Community Marching Band.



Taurus Lovely

Director of Percussion

Born in South Bay, FL, Mr. Lovely began playing drums at age 5 and went on to perform in middle and high school marching bands, as well as Palm Beach County honor bands. In 1994, he was selected as the first-chair drummer for the Florida Bandmasters Association All-State Jazz Band. A graduate of Florida A&M University with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Visual and Performing Arts), experiences that continue to inspire his passion for teaching and performance.

Meet The Team

Director of Dance



Myishea Blackshell

With 8 years of experience coaching cheer and dance, Ms. Blackshell brings energy, creativity, and dedication to the SOS program. As Director of Dance, Ms. Blackshell is committed to inspiring students, building confidence, and fostering a love for performance both on and off the field.

Director of Lower Brass



Jerry Freeman

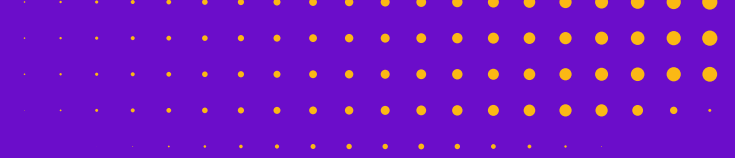
A native of West Palm Beach, Mr. Freeman discovered a passion for music in middle school, beginning on tuba before exploring baritone and returning to tuba. After continuing through Palm Beach Lakes High School under the guidance of several inspiring directors, he pursued a Bachelor's degree in Music at Bethune-Cookman University, where he performed with the renowned Marching Wildcats. With over 16 years of experience in lower brass, symphonic, and marching band, Mr. Freeman is a dedicated music educator committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment and inspiring the next generation of musicians.

Director of Brass



Troy Johnson Jr

A native of Pahokee, Florida, Mr. Johnson began his musical journey in the brass section at JFK Middle School under the leadership of Mr. Timothy Nance. He went on to perform with the Palm Beach Lakes High School Marching Band from 2001–2005 and later joined the Florida A&M University Marching Band as a trumpet player. With a strong commitment to youth music programs, he has served as Brass Director and Assistant Band Director at JFK Middle School and has been the Assistant Band Director of the Sounds of Success (S.O.S.) Marching Band since 2018. Alongside his passion for music, Mr. Johnson also holds an A.A. in Computer Engineering from Florida Career College.



Agreement & Signature Pages

"Dedication to Service"

Agreement Statement Permission Slip

I _____ agree to pay for and replace any instrument/uniform/equipment that is not returned, lost, or destroyed by my child or myself (if over 18) _____ at the same expense. I also have filled out all personal information correctly on the Personal Form in the handbook. This also certifies that both my child/I have read the Sounds of Success Music band handbook and we both understand and agree to all terms mentioned in the SOS band handbook. This will also serve as a permission slip for the band's yearly travels.

Parent Signature

Date

Band Director's Signature

Date

SOS Music Medical Information Confidential

Member Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Contact Information to call In Case of Emergency: (Please include all relevant information)

Name: _____

Home Phone No. _____ Cell Phone No: _____

Wk Phone No: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____

Home Phone No: _____ Cell Phone No: _____

Wk Phone No: _____ Relationship _____

Emergency Contact (person to contact if persons listed above cannot be reached in emergency) If contacts listed above cannot be reached in the event of an emergency, the following person is authorized to act in my behalf:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Physician Information:

Physician's name: _____ Telephone number: _____

Additional remarks: _____

Prescription Medications:

- ☐ Take NO medications on a routine basis.
- ☐ Take prescription/over-the-counter medications

*Please list Prescription/over-the-counter medications here. Please bring medications in pharmacy-issued containers:

SOS Music Medical Information Confidential

Member's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Allergies

Please list any known allergies, illnesses, injuries, possible conditions, or anything else that may affect the member's health & welfare during trips or rehearsals. Band Staff Personnel may offer over-the-counter medications (i.e aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, cough drops, antacids, motion sickness medication, etc.) if needed, unless you indicate a problem with allergies to certain medications, or prefer that medication not be given:

Health Insurance Information:

Please include a photocopy of the insurance card-front and back for claims instructions or photocopy of your driver's license if you have no insurance.

Insurance Company Name: _____

Contract Number _____

Subscribing Member Name _____

Insurance Company Contact Telephone No(s) _____

Group Name (If employer related) _____ Group No. _____

If the adult has no health/dental insurance coverage, please list the name and address of the financially responsible person and MI Driver's License Number as may be required for treatment:

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Address: _____

Driver's License Number: _____

Signature

Today's Date

Sounds of Success Music
To be returned to the Band Director

Student Name _____ D.O.B _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parents Names _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Personal Instrument

Brand _____ Model _____ Ser# _____

Mouth Piece _____ Strap _____ Mallets _____

SOS Instruments

Brand _____ Model _____ Ser# _____

Mouth Piece _____ Strap _____ Mallets _____

Brand _____ Model _____ Ser# _____

Mouth Piece _____ Strap _____ Mallets _____

Date Issued _____ Date Returned _____

Student Initials _____ Parent Initials _____ Director Initials _____

Uniform

Coat Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shirt Size _____

Adult Set: Top(XS-6XL)/Bottom(XS-4XL)

Youth Set: (XS-XL)