

Band Grading Policy

The main focus of our band program is to provide students with the opportunity to succeed. With this in mind, the following grading policy will be used to evaluate student mastery of the material.

The student's grade is based on 100%, divided differently depending on whether or not there is a concert performance during the grading period.

Grading periods **with** a Performance:

- 25% - Rehearsal Assessment
- 20% - Weekly Assessment
- 20% - Tests
- 35% - Performance Assessment

Grading periods **without** a Performance:

- 35% - Rehearsal Assessment
- 30% - Weekly Assessment
- 35% - Tests

Rehearsal Assessment

Rehearsal skills are critical to each student's musical success. Students may accrue maximum points by performing at or above the level of their ensemble during rehearsals. Every class is a rehearsal.

Weekly Assessment

Students will receive a Weekly Assessment form at the beginning of each week. A minimum of 180 minutes per week is required in order to receive an "A". Weekly Assessments will be turned in on Monday of each week in order to be "on time". Students will have a two week grace period to turn in the assessment, but it will be "late". After two weeks, the student will receive a failing grade for the assessment.

Daily in-school rehearsals do **NOT** count towards weekly assessments!

Tests

Students will be taking several playing tests throughout each marking period. Some will be announced and others will not. Written tests may also be given.

Performance Assessment

Performance is the ultimate goal of every band. Therefore, attendance **IS REQUIRED** at every performance. A performance is the equivalent of a major unit exam in other subject areas, but because it is a group activity, it cannot be

made up. A student's absence from a performance without a **prior** note from his/her parent will be considered unexcused, and subject to a failing grade for that performance.

Several examples of excuses which are considered **unexcused** are:

- 1) "I forgot!" ("We had a concert?????!!")
- 2) "I had to babysit."
- 3) "I had a soccer (football, basketball, etc.) game."
- 4) "I didn't have a ride."
- 5) "Something came up!"

According to Fairfax County Regulations, excused absences include:

- 1) Student illness on day of concert
- 2) Death in the family
- 3) Doctor appointments
- 4) Suspension
- 5) Religious holidays
- 6) Pre-arranged absences from school

A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be **received by Ms. Bonneau two (2) weeks before** the concert date for doctor appointments, religious holidays and pre-arranged absences.

Students who do not perform at a concert and receive an "unexcused" absence will not be allowed to participate in the Spring Competition.

If student illness is the reason for the absence, a **note, voice mail, or email** from the parent or guardian must be **received by Ms. Bonneau** the day of the concert, the day after the concert, or the day the student returns to school. To reach me by phone, call 703-904-4841 anytime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To reach me by email: SJBonneau@fcps.edu

In the case of an **excused** absence, a Concert Review would be assigned to make up for the missed performance, and the grade received for the review would take the place of the performance assessment grade for that activity.

A performance is an opportunity for students to show their family and friends how hard they have worked and what they have mastered. It is important that families mark their calendars NOW. Your attention is called to Fairfax County's Department of Instrumental Service's Program of Studies, which states: *"Band offers students several performance opportunities and requires rehearsal and performance outside of normal school hours."*

Students are expected to stay for the entire concert unless prior written notification has been given and has been approved.