

Hickory Middle School Band

Grading Policies

Instrumental Music (Band)

Each student's grade is determined through earning points in three areas of evaluation:

Performance - Tests/Concerts	40% of total grade
Quizzes/Check Offs	30% of total grade
Practice Records/Classroom Participation	30% of total grade

- **Performance – Tests and Concerts (40% of total grade):**

Periodic evaluations of each student's progress will be given in the form of playing tests and/or written tests. Criteria for grading will be announced prior to each exam. Some common areas for evaluation include: a proper and characteristic tone, correct articulation (style and technique), proper posture, rhythmic accuracy, correct dynamics, note accuracy, etc. Student's comprehension of various musical concepts and terminology will be evaluated by periodic tests. These evaluations will be announced and will be varied in length and design. Both written and playing tests will be given in class. The school policy regarding make-up work will apply.

All concerts are graded performances and attendance is mandatory. For full credit, students are expected to:

- Arrive on time
- Meet the required concert dress code
- Stay for the entire concert
- Demonstrate proper concert etiquette both as performer and audience member

Please read the attached letter from Chesapeake Public Schools administration concerning the importance of concert attendance and the applicable citywide policies.

Participation in concert performances is mandatory. Any unexcused absences from a performance will result in a test grade of zero. All absences will be considered unexcused (unforeseen emergencies excepted) unless written notice is submitted and approved.

- **Quizzes/Check-offs (30% of total grade):**

Periodic evaluations of each student's progress will be given in the form of playing quizzes and/or written quizzes. Student's comprehension of various musical concepts and terminology will be evaluated by periodic quizzes. Quizzes or check offs are meant to be short assessments to check for understanding. They will be narrow in scope (for example: playing a few measures from a piece of music we are working on, or demonstrating a scale or skill after studying it in class). These evaluations may be announced or unannounced and will be varied in length and design. Both written and playing quizzes will be given in class. The school policy regarding make-up work will apply.

- **Practice Records and Class Participation (30% of total grade):**

The focus of the Class Participation category is the development of the student's interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. These skills include the ability to work with others, either as a leader (section leader), or as a team member (i.e. member of the clarinet section). Also included are the abilities to follow rules, to observe deadlines, to work toward performance goals (concerts), and to adapt to one's environment (different classes, different conductors, and different concert halls). The sense of pride and self-esteem that results from the student's continued efforts in this area is invaluable.

Some of the most common reasons for not earning one's Participation/Rehearsal Skills points are:

- Disturbing the class
 - Talking during rehearsal
 - Playing instrument out of turn
- Failing to meet rehearsal standards
 - Not paying attention to teacher
 - Failing to sit with proper posture or hold the instrument properly
- Failing to be prepared for class
 - No music or book
 - No pencil
 - No accessories (good reeds, valve oil, mouthpiece)
 - No instrument (Broken instruments which are in for repair are considered "excused" as long as a note or receipt from the repair shop has been turned into the band teachers. Repairs should be taken care of as soon as possible so that minimal instruction time is lost)

The effectiveness of any music program can be measured by the progress made by each individual musician. Self-control, courtesy, and dedication are essential from each participating student in order for the group to attain a level of performance that will be satisfactory for all.

There are two main goals of the Practice Record category. The first and more obvious goal is for each student to develop their playing abilities through the reinforcement of performance objectives covered in class. The second and underlying goal is to develop part of each student's personal responsibility. The student must enter information on a "log" or record (amount of time practiced each day) and submit this record on the assigned deadline – every Monday. There is no minimum assignment for home practice. The recommended time for practice is 10 minutes per day for beginners and 20-30 minutes per day for intermediate and advanced players. Replacements for misplaced practice sheets can be printed from Synergy, www.HickoryMiddleSchoolBand.org, or picked up in the band room. **Practice times MUST be submitted on a practice sheet to be counted.**

Practice records are due every Monday. There are six practice records due each term with the remaining seventh, eighth, and ninth weeks available to replace a missed record or low grade.

- **Late work/Make up assignment policy**

When a student is absent the day of an assessment (a test or project due date), but was in school the day before the test or project due date, the student will be expected to take the test or turn in the project upon return to school.

Students who are present but fail to complete an assignment or test may receive a 10% deduction per day it is late.

Hickory Middle School Band Important Dates 2019-2020

- December 10, 2019** Seventh Grade Band, Woodwind Ensemble and Jazz Band @ Hickory Middle School. Band students will arrive at 6:30 P.M. and the concert will begin at 7:00.
- December 12, 2019** Eighth Grade Band and HHS Wind Ensemble @ Hickory Middle School. Band students will arrive at 6:30 P.M. and the concert will begin at 7:00.
- December 14, 2019** All-District Band Auditions @ Hickory Middle School
All Seventh and Eighth Grade Students are highly encouraged to audition for this prestigious group. Auditions take place in the morning. Specific times will be released closer to the audition date.
- February 6, 2020** Sixth Grade “Informance” @ Hickory Middle School. First public performance on our new instruments! Students and parents will arrive and meet in the auditorium at 7:00.
- March 4, 2020** Chesapeake Middle School Concert Band Festival @ Great Bridge High School. Eighth Grade students will perform a concert and will be rated according to set guidelines. Students will also have the opportunity to meet and work with an internationally acclaimed clinician at the end of our performance.
- May 12, 2020** Sixth Grade (Teal Band), Seventh Grade Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert @ Hickory Middle. Band students will arrive at 6:30 P.M. and the concert will begin at 7:00.
- May 14, 2020** Sixth Grade (Silver Band), Eighth Grade Band and Woodwind Ensemble Spring Concert @ Hickory Middle. Band students will arrive at 6:30 P.M. and the concert will begin at 7:00.

Attendance at performances is required. Allowances will be made for illness and family emergencies.

Concert Dress

6th and 7th Grade Bands – All students should wear black dress pants and a white dress shirt. The pants should be full length (not capri pants). Jeans and skirts are not allowed for performances. Gentlemen should have their shirt tucked in and wear a tie of their choosing. Everyone should wear solid black shoes and black socks. Flats are permitted, but sandals and flip-flops are not.

8th Grade Band – All students will wear their Hickory Middle School Band teal polo shirt and black pants. The shirt must be tucked in by all students. The pants should be full length (not capri pants). Jeans and skirts are not allowed for performances. Everyone should wear solid black shoes and black socks. Flats are permitted, but sandals and flip-flops are not.



TO: Parents of Secondary Music Students

FROM: Anita B. James, Chief Academic Officer *ABJ*
Nancy T. Sweat, Director of Instructional Resources, Services and Technologies *NS*
John B. Chenault, Supervisor of Music Education *JC*

RE: Requirement for Performance Attendance by Secondary Music Students

DATE: September 3, 2019

Music is a performing art. The National Standards for Music Education and the Virginia Music Standards of Learning identify *performance* as a critical component. With this in mind, the Office of Music Education of the Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the curriculum for secondary band, chorus, and orchestra with public performance as a vital element of each course. As part of the requirements for completion of these courses, students are expected to participate in a number of group performances each year.

Performances showcase the skills learned in daily rehearsals and give each student an opportunity to exhibit his or her special musical talent. Concerts, festivals, marching band shows, and other performance activities enhance student, school, and community life. Participation in quality group activities contributes significantly to the development of the student's sense of responsibility, as each ensemble member has an important role in the success of the group.

Accordingly, the administration of Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the following guidelines for grading middle and high school students enrolled in performance based music courses:

1. Students are required to attend any scheduled performance approved by the school principal. Adequate notice (two weeks or longer) of performance dates will be provided.
2. Excuses for an absence must be submitted by the parent in writing and approved by the student's principal or designee and music teacher prior to the performance. In the event of an emergency situation, a written note stating the reason for the unexpected absence must be submitted by the parent for approval by the principal and music teacher on the next school day. Make-up work for an excused absence will be assigned according to the individual school policy.
3. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered for the marking period.
4. An unexcused absence will be determined by the regular school policy concerning attendance.

It is hoped that parents will not only emphasize to the student the importance of performance attendance, but will also support the student by attending as many performances as possible.

JC/ka

Hickory Middle School Band Program

Agreement Form for Members

In an effort to conserve paper/resources the entire handbook can be viewed on the class website section of Synergy. If you do not have access to Synergy at this time, please let us know and we will send home a paper copy of the band handbook.

Student's Name (Please Print) _____

Parent or Guardian's full name _____

Home Address _____

Preferred Telephone Number _____

Parent's E-mail Address _____

Emergency Telephone Number _____

Emergency Contact Person Name and Relationship _____

Student/Parent(s): We have read the HMS Band class grading policies and agree to abide by the guidelines contained therein. I understand that the performances for this class do take place outside of the regular school day.

- I agree to attend these performances and to arrange my schedule and/or other commitments in order to participate

- I understand that an unexcused absence from a performance will result in my nine weeks grade being lowered

Hickory Middle School Band Website

The Hickory Middle School Band runs a website at www.hickorymiddleschoolband.org. This website provides all up-to-date information regarding band matters. Since the website covers band events and performances, occasionally pictures are posted. By Chesapeake policy, we must have parent permission to post pictures on the web. Please initial below if you will allow your child's picture to be posted on the website www.hickorymiddleschoolband.org

_____ *I give permission for my child's picture to be used on the website.*

_____ ***I do not*** give permission for my child's picture to be used on the website.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date