

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE GRADING POLICY

“It is the philosophy of the Music Department that grades should reflect the effort, ability, attitude and visible dedication that each student demonstrates on a consistent daily basis in a particular ensemble.”

The wind ensemble grading policy consists of the following:

- 50% Assessments
- 25% Daily Participation and Effort
- 20% Dress Rehearsals and Performances
- 5% Patron of the Arts Concert Review

Please note that your grade is cumulative over the semester, and the final semester grade represents calculations based on the entire semester. There is no final exam for band.

I. ASSESSMENTS

The number of assessments will vary each semester. In some cases, assessments can be redone or improved upon. The final date for resubmission of a particular assessment is the Friday before semester exams.

Members of all wind ensembles (except percussion) are required to activate an annual subscription to SmartMusic, which serves as an online “textbook” for the course. Students are expected to purchase this subscription and a SmartMusic microphone online via the SmartMusic website. Additional instructions regarding this purchase will be distributed in class.

Typical Assessments might include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- Playing Tests via SmartMusic (scales, excerpts from literature, etc.)
- Placement Evaluations
- Written Concert Reflections
- Exit Slips, Quizzes, or Tests

II. DAILY PARTICIPATION AND EFFORT

Students are expected to participate positively in rehearsals, never hindering the efforts of other students or the conductor, and demonstrating a high regard for preparation and contribution. Please refer to the Behavioral Expectations listed in the Music Department policies. Students are also required to follow all classroom procedures, including arriving on time, having a pencil in all rehearsals, maintaining their instruments and related accessories, and having music daily. If a student misses three or more consecutive days of school, or accumulates a significant number of absences, additional make-up work may be required to fulfill their participation points. The director will work with the student to determine an appropriate alternative assignment for extended absences. Any unauthorized absence (cut) from class will result in an automatic deduction of 6% from the semester grade.

III. DRESS REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Each performance is a culminating experience that results from many months of preparation. Students are expected to be at concerts, festival performances, and dress rehearsals. For each absence from a dress rehearsal or performance, the final semester grade will be reduced by one letter (i.e. 10 point deduction from the semester grade). Please refer to the Music Department policies for clarification.

- If the absence is *excused*, points to reverse this reduction may be earned by completing make-up work assigned by the director.
- If the absence is *unexcused*, the grade reduction cannot be reversed.

Please consult the Music Department Policies and Guidelines regarding what is considered excused or unexcused.

IV. PATRON OF THE ARTS CONCERT REVIEW

Students are expected to attend one (1) artistic performance per *semester* in which they do not perform and complete a written assignment. (Note: Students in multiple music electives can use one of their own performances.) The performance should be at least 1 hour in length, and should be a band, choir, orchestra, jazz, or musical theater performance. Although performances at New Trier are preferred, off campus performances will also be accepted. Students that are taking the class for major credit are exempt from this requirement since they have music major projects.

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Grading Scale:

90-100	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
0-59	= F

In this course, you are expected to track your own grade until the end of each quarter. You can see your percentage in SmartMusic at any time by simply logging onto your account once the assignments have been graded. You will receive a grade printout with two weeks left in the quarter.

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

It is the philosophy of the Music Department that grades should reflect the effort, ability, attitude and visible dedication that each student demonstrates on a consistent daily basis in a particular ensemble.

Punctuality to class, rehearsals, and concerts is essential. Tardiness cannot be allowed. Policies regarding class attendance and tardiness with respect to grading have been established by the school. **Individual teachers will define specific class requirements.**

CONCERT PARTICIPATION

There are approximately two major concerts each semester for every performance organization. Concerts are a culmination of daily rehearsals and class work and are **REQUIRED** laboratory experiences equal in importance to regular class attendance. Concerts are a unique musical experience, the value of which cannot be duplicated. It is essential that **ALL** students be present for each performance, as it is a "team" effort, and the absence of **ANY** student reduces the educational and enjoyment value for all.

The week of a concert is critical, every member is essential to the ensemble. In the event a student misses a **dress rehearsal** or **performance**, the following procedure will be in effect:

EXCUSED ABSENCE (which must be verified with a note from a parent/guardian) will result in the semester grade being reduced by **ONE LETTER GRADE** for each absence from a scheduled concert or dress rehearsal. Points to reverse this reduction and restore the student's grade may be earned by completing make-up work assigned by the director.

Excused absences from a concert or dress rehearsal include:

- A. Student illness
- B. Death in the family
- C. Family emergencies
- D. Religious holidays (director must be notified in advance)

All other absences from a scheduled concert or dress rehearsal will be considered **UNEXCUSED**, and will result in the semester grade being reduced by **ONE LETTER GRADE** for each absence. Grade reduction resulting from unexcused absence **CANNOT** be reversed.

Unexcused absences from concert or dress rehearsal include:

- A. Study or private lessons
- B. Family vacations or trips
- C. College visitations
- D. Work

Students assume the responsibility for making up all missed class work. In the event of any excused absence, it is the **student's** responsibility to contact the director and discuss material missed or to obtain additional help.

Students are required to notify their director regarding conflicts (curricular excursions, athletic events, etc.) as early as possible so that conversations will occur between director and sponsor of conflicting event. Any unresolved conflicts that arise in the application of these procedures will be resolved by the Music Department Chair and the school administration.

EXPECTATIONS

Safe and Respectful Learning Environment - We all come to this class as unique individuals. Behavior based on courtesy, respect, and an appreciation of our differences and similarities will create an environment in which each of us can grow and learn. Together we will create an environment in which each of us can grow and learn in a safe place for everyone; regardless of gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, class, level or physical or mental ability.

Mobile devices, including iPads, generally will not be used in this classroom. There may be times when your instructor will ask you to use your mobile devices for specific activities. At all other times, your device must remain off and stored away in order to focus your attention on the current classroom activity. Off task use or behavior that is detrimental to our learning environment will result in temporary loss of this privilege. A second offense will result in a call home and a meeting with the Adviser Chair.

“The best discipline is SELF-discipline.” ALL time spent on discipline matters is a waste of time and effort. Therefore, a grading policy that takes into account the attitude of a performer is vital to the development of a performance group that maintains a positive, professional atmosphere in rehearsals and performances. Participation in a performance-based class is clearly connected to New Trier’s goal of developing students that demonstrate ethical conduct and global citizenship.

It is important that the students understand exactly what is expected. Attitudes almost always translate into actions and affect the conduct and citizenship of the individual and group.

An individual with a positive attitude and self-discipline:

1. Is considerate of the needs and feelings of others;
2. Leaves one’s "ego" at the door and becomes a team player;
3. Helps others to learn their part;
4. Is helpful and attentive in situations when the director is not present (e.g. sectionals, student or substitute teachers);
5. Refrains from making jokes at the expense of others;
6. Is courteous to the non-teaching school employees as well as members of the faculty;
7. Turns in all music when requested, so as not to become a burden to others who must refile parts returned late;
8. Refrains from using profanity;
9. Tries to support other members of the department by attending concerts presented by peers;
10. Treats all performers with respect, understands what it means to be a "good audience member," and appreciates all performances with appropriate, supportive behavior;
11. Is present at ALL concerts and dress rehearsals, or produces an acceptable excuse well in advance;
12. Does not act in an immature manner when in public places while with the ensemble;
13. Always employs the best technique and sensitivity in warm-up, rehearsal, and concert;

14. Is on time to rehearsals and concerts;
15. ALWAYS brings necessary materials to class;
16. Approaches ALL new music with an open mind seeing each piece as an opportunity to learn;
17. Recognizes warm-up time as an important part of class;
18. Uses a pencil to mark parts;
19. Is quiet at the proper times during rehearsals;
20. Acts as a professional when rehearsing and PERFORMING;
21. Practices music regularly;
22. Attends concerts away from school of groups performing music similar to that of one's ensemble;
23. Maintains in proper condition, and wears the appropriate uniform for concerts;
24. Participates in extra-curricular music activities;
25. Assists in keeping the rehearsal and performance areas neat, clean, and orderly;
26. Does not participate in or encourage vandalism of school property, or the belongings of others;
27. Assists after performances or rehearsals with equipment that needs to be moved or attended to;
28. Abides by school rules and regulations;
29. Does not deface signs posted in the building;
30. Does not mistreat school instruments, pianos, etc.;
31. Turns in excursion cards and any other forms, completed and on time;
32. Does NOT thrive on complaining or finding fault with the direction or leadership of the ensemble, or the efforts of its members;
33. Employs creative thinking skills to solve problems and voice concerns.