

NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

2015 - 2016 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Grading Procedure

30% -- ATTENDANCE

Students will have a group lesson once every rotation (seven school days). Attendance is mandatory at all lessons unless absent from school. If a student is involved with something in class that cannot be made up (project, chapter test, lab, etc.), a form is available that must be filled out, signed by the classroom teacher, and returned to Mr. Lesieur to be excused from the lesson. If a student is not at a lesson, is not absent from school, and this form is not returned to Mr. Lesieur, that student will be considered unexcused from the lesson. Students do not need to make up excused lessons unless they feel they need/want to. Unexcused lessons can be made up before/after school but students will only be given **half credit**.

Concerts and parades are the culmination of months of hard work, dedication and practice. They are opportunities for us to show the public what we have learned and how we have grown. **All** students are important, and their attendance is necessary to ensure our success. For musicians, these performances are the equivalent of a major exam. Therefore, **attendance at all concerts and parades is mandatory. Students with an unexcused absence from a performance will have their grade for that quarter lowered by two full letter grades.** Excused absences from performances include such things as illness or a death in the family. Unexcused absences include such things as orthodontist appointments and vacations. If you feel that you have a legitimate reason to miss a performance, you must call/email Mr. Lesieur **in advance**. Students may be asked to complete an extra project for excused absences.

30% -- SMARTMUSIC ASSIGNMENTS

Students will have short bi-weekly SmartMusic assignments to complete. These assignments will include things such as scales, technical exercises, and band method book assignments.

30% -- TESTS

Once or twice each quarter, students will be assigned a piece of their band music in SmartMusic. Detailed instructions will be given with the tests.

10% -- TONE/POSTURE

A student's posture while playing their instrument is a major influence on the sound (tone) that they will be able to produce. It is vital that at all times students try their best to be sitting up straight with their instrument in the correct playing position. Posture will be graded daily during rehearsals, and during students' lessons. Tone (the sound that students produce on their instrument) will be graded during students' lessons when I can listen more individually.

EXTRA CREDIT

There are four ways for a student to receive extra credit in Band:

- 1). Auditioning for the Northern Regional Middle School Music Festival
-all students accepted are also exempt from all remaining band music tests! (but not other SmartMusic assignments)
- 2). Attendance at a college or professional concert (Band, Jazz, Orchestra, Choral, etc.)
-a short paragraph about the concert must be handed into Mr. Lesieur, along with a program if there was one. The paragraph should include what you heard, what you liked/did not like, and any overall thoughts you had about the concert.
- 3). Participation in an outside instrumental ensemble (GWYS, Hartt Concert Ensemble)
- 4). Participation in private music lessons on their band instrument with a qualified instructor. Extra credit will be given for each quarter that a student takes lessons – summer lessons will count towards the first quarter. It is the student's responsibility to email Mr. Lesieur of their lessons in order to receive credit.

Concert Dress

Boys – white dress shirt (no tie), black dress pants, black socks, black shoes *(see note about shoes below under Uniforms at Parades)

Girls – white blouse, black pants/skirt (skirt **must** be longer than knee length, preferably ankle length)

Uniforms at Parades

Uniforms will be distributed in the spring and are to be worn at all parades, along with black socks and black shoes. During the year all students will be given the option to purchase marching shoes that will also be required for all high school marching events. For eighth graders moving on into the high school band it might be easier to get your marching shoes in May and have them for the start of high school. Seventh graders and those eighth graders not moving on into the high school band may choose to wear regular black dress shoes. *However, the marching shoes are suitable to be worn as dress shoes during concerts (especially for boys) and are extremely comfortable for marching, so investing the \$30 for marching shoes might be worth it for many band members. I will be sending home an order form for marching shoes twice during the year – once before the winter concert, and once before the spring concert/spring marching events.

There is a \$40 uniform usage fee, which will be collected at the beginning of the year with the other fees - see attached fee list. **This fee also includes having the uniform dry cleaned by the school.** Uniforms will be collected dirty the week after the Memorial Day parades and sent out to a local dry cleaner. Please see attached fee list.

Rehearsals

Students are expected to come prepared for all rehearsals (instrument, music and a pencil). Students who forget their instrument regularly (more than once or twice/quarter) will receive a detention.

Instruments

Students are expected to supply their own instruments, except for the following: bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, bassoon, french horn, euphonium and tuba. There will be a rental fee of \$65 charged for the use of school owned instruments. **All school instruments are to be cleaned and/or serviced by a reputable music store before the end of the year or over the summer.** Students will be responsible for the regular maintenance/repair of the instrument while they are playing it, as most of these repairs occur due to mishandling the instrument, however the music department will pay for any major overhauls that are a normal part of that instrument's repair cycle.