

How do I EARN my grade in Concert Band & Wind Ensemble?

Rehearsals: approximately 57% of total points earned in a trimester

Private Lessons: approx. 18 % of total points earned in a trimester

Practice Time (homework for band): approx. 8% of total points earned in a trimester

Performances: approx. 14% of total points earned in a trimester

Materials: approx. 3% of total points earned in a trimester

REHEARSALS

- Approximately 57% of the total points earned in a trimester
- 40 points may be earned when he/she participates in each rehearsal.
- Arriving on time, individual behavior and individual effort greatly affect individual progress and the development of the entire group. Therefore, tardiness, observation of lack of effort and/or disruptive behavior in class may lower points earned at a rehearsal.
 - 1st Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band -21; Wind Ensemble-21.
 - 2nd Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band- 22; Wind Ensemble- 23.
 - 3rd Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band-20; Wind Ensemble- 17

“Empathy, compassion, self-awareness, and cooperation are best learned in an ensemble and not from a book. In other words, it’s not about the test, it’s about the PROCESS, and music’s intrinsic values can only be processed by students when they are present and fully participating.”
~John Weiss. *Music Educators Journal*, vol. 97 no. 4, June 2011.

“People who make music together cannot be enemies, at least while the music lasts.” – composer, Paul Hindemith

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

- Approximately 18 % of total points earned in a trimester
- 40 points may be earned when he/she participates in each lesson.
- 7 lessons per trimester

“Learning to appreciate music is like riding a bicycle. It is far more satisfying to have ridden yourself than simply to watch others.” ~Nadia Boulanger, Paris Conservatory.

PRACTICE TIME (*the homework for band*)

- Approximately 8% of total points earned in a trimester.
- 40 points earned each month when he/she completes the minimum practice time requirement for a total of 120 points earned in a trimester.
 - Band students are expected to practice **a minimum of 80 minutes each week** and document the practice time on monthly practice time sheets. Parent signatures are required next to each week of practice. Three monthly practice time sheets are due each trimester with indicated due dates for each month. Practice time sheets can be accessed electronically at <http://www.sthubert.org/school/band-choir.php> and on Sycamore if the student loses his/her sheet.
 - Band lessons and rehearsals are not considered individual practice and should not be included in the child's monthly practice time.
 - An individual practice session consists of warm-ups, review of scales, etudes, or pieces you have already learned, your new assignment and then something you really love playing, or just for fun (maybe even make up a piece on your own).
 - **PRACTICE TIPS:**
 - Set goals to try to accomplish in each practice session
 - Be sure you know what the passage should sound like
 - Work on your most challenging spots first
 - Break the music down into small sections
 - **Repeat** the passage many times AFTER you get it right
 - Before you end each practice session, play the entire piece, and enjoy!
 - **SAMPLE PRACTICE SESSION: (20 minutes)**
 - 3-5 minutes: warm ups
 - 5 minutes: review of scales, etudes, or pieces you have already learned
 - 5-7 minutes: work on the most challenging sections
 - 5 minutes: play something you really love playing, or just for fun (maybe even make up a piece on your own)

“My father taught me that the only way you can make good at anything is to practice, and then practice some more.” ~Pete Rose

PERFORMANCES

- **Individual Playing Exam (1st trimester) & Concerts (2nd/3rd Trimester)**
- Approximately 14% of total points earned in a trimester
- 200 points may be earned when he/she completes the exam/concert.
 - **Playing exam:** Playing Exam material is announced within the third week of full band rehearsals. Students have the remaining weeks in the first trimester to prepare and perform exam material for his/her lesson teacher at the scheduled lesson time of his/her choice. Students are assessed using a rubric and may earn up to 200 points. Students may retake the playing exam, at a different lesson time, to try to improve the grade if they choose. Therefore, it's better to take perform the exam earlier in the trimester to allow the option of a retake if the child feels it is necessary.
 - **Concert Performance (Christmas/Spring):** Students may earn up to 200 points for each performance. Students earn points by arriving on time for concert, demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette (posture, concert dress, behavior on stage), demonstrating appropriate audience behavior (i.e. applauding at appropriate times, not talking during performance, keeping feet and hands to one's self, only using the bathroom if it's an emergency etc.), and performing on stage to the best of his/her ability.

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain." -Bob Marley

MATERIALS

- Approximately 3% of total points earned in a trimester
- 10 points may be earned each time materials are checked in band rehearsal. Random checks of necessary materials will be performed throughout the trimester.
- At **EVERY** rehearsal **EVERY** band student needs the following:
 - Instrument *with* case clearly labeled with his/her name
 - **Pencil**- NOT a pen, marker, or other writing utensil. The pencil is used to mark the band music.
 - 3-ring **BINDER** *with* plastic sheet protectors labeled *with* his/her name
 - All band music that has been distributed, neatly stored in the plastic sheet protectors in the band binder
 - Lesson Book
 - Varsity Band- The Yamaha Advantage Book 1
 - Concert Band & Wind Ensemble- The Yamaha Advantage Book 2

"Don't make excuses, make improvements."