

UNIFIED GRADING POLICY

To provide a clear, fair, and precise assessment of each student's progress as a member of the Gahr High School Instrumental Music Department, the following grading guidelines are in effect. The overall purpose of this grading policy is to ensure the highest standard of performance, musicianship, instrumental progress, theoretical study, and application is understood and attained by every student. Every effort will be made to ensure each student has the opportunity to receive the highest grade possible while being a member of the GHS Music Department. The required work for this course will consist of a variety of assignments, activities, and events both inside and outside the regular school day. **All students begin their participation grade with an "A."** To maintain an "A" in band, percussion, or color guard, each member must successfully complete the following:

1. Rehearsals & Sectionals

Attend all rehearsals, clinics, and scheduled sectionals occurring both inside and outside the regular school day, or as calendared for the student's ensemble. Five absences will result in an overall deduction of one letter grade. Please understand that it is impossible to make up the information gained in a rehearsal. Excused absences are defined as weddings, funerals, or illness requiring a doctor's immediate care. It is the student's responsibility to provide a doctor's note the following day. Examples of unexcused absences are things like having too much homework, conflicts with work, or not having a ride to rehearsal. Please provide a copy of the schedule to your employer and parents with your commitments highlighted. Students must be in the proper dress to receive daily credit for class participation. Proper dress is understood to be athletic clothing (gym shorts, t-shirts, track pants, etc.), tennis shoes, and a hat. Wear warm clothes for Tuesday night rehearsals.

2. Performances

Performances are the culmination of hard work in preparing a field show or concert literature for an audience. Performances are the equivalent of exams in a textbook-bearing course. Missing a performance is unacceptable and will result in a letter grade deduction from the student's overall grade. If a student is late to a performance or call time, the student's grade will drop by one-third of a letter. If a student has two or more absences the week of any ensemble performance, they will not be allowed to perform, and their grade will drop accordingly.

3. Behavior

Students in the Gahr High School Instrumental Music Program are professional, mature individuals. This means no profanity, slander, or disrupting rehearsals. Inappropriate behavior will result in disciplinary action or a deduction from the student's overall grade.

4. Class Participation & Preparation

To receive credit for class attendance, students must come to class on time with proper materials and a positive attitude. If an instrument or equipment is forgotten, a student's grade will drop by a third of a letter grade. Grading for participation is done on a daily basis. Playing exams for all band classes will occur on a weekly basis. For Marching Band, students are required to have a well-maintained dot book, the equivalent of classwork in a textbook-bearing class. Dot book checks occur periodically, and any student with an incomplete or missing dot book will have one-third of letter grade deducted from their overall grade.

5. Playing Tests

Playing tests are used to assess a student's overall preparedness *prior* to each performance during the fall. Students will be individually and collectively assessed to demonstrate performance readiness and evidence of home practice on a portion of the marching band material. Students unable to play show music memorized and in time with correct notes and rhythms will be placed on suspension. **Suspended students have up until one day before a performance to demonstrate playing proficiency.** If a student is still unable to play the show music memorized and correctly, the student will not participate in that performance. Non-performing students are still expected to travel and dress with the rest of the ensemble but only receive half-credit.

6. Timeliness

"To be EARLY is to be ON TIME." Being on time to rehearsals, sectionals, and performances means being in your chair or on the field *before* the start time. Plan on arriving 15 minutes prior to any band event to get your materials, warm up, and check for new information. **Please note: "I could not get a ride," or "My parent was late," are never acceptable excuses for being late.**

7. Make-Up Work

All tests, exams, and assignments are to be completed on time as they are assigned. If a student is absent when one of these assignments is presented, they must see Mr. Loney the next day to set alternative options for the assignment. Extra credit work may be assigned only at the discretion of Mr. Loney.

8. Music

Students are required to have a black binder to keep their music organized. Students must arrive to rehearsal using their own music in order to receive proper credit for band. Losing music is not acceptable, and any music found on the floor - or anywhere outside of a student's cubbies - will result in a significant point deduction from the student's overall grade or loss of cubby privileges.

9. Home Practice

Practice at home **daily** for a minimum of 20 minutes. *This is your homework for band & guard class!*