



# Donald H. Eichhorn Middle School

## Instrumental Music Department - Band

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**Dale A. Orris**

Instrumental Music Teacher & Director of Bands

## Instrumental Music (Band) Grading Policy

### Objectives of the Lewisburg Instrumental Music Curriculum:

While participating in the Lewisburg Area School District Instrumental Music Program, the student will:

- a) demonstrate the language art of reading and interpreting music notation;
- b) perform music independently and with others;
- c) describe, analyze, and create music;
- d) evaluate music using critical thinking and listening skills;
- e) demonstrate a knowledge of music history and cultural heritage; and
- f) participate in the cultural/musical life of the community through involvement in local and regional musical/arts events.

**In order to learn and improve**, the student musician must attend lessons and rehearsals, practice, be receptive to teaching and help, and demonstrate a positive and constructive attitude.

### Evaluation and Grading:

(The student will be evaluated and graded at each, six-day cycle, lesson according to the following criteria:)

#### **Lesson Attendance:** (3 points)

- Three points will be earned by attending the lesson with his/her instrument, lesson book, and all performance music. The student is expected to attend the lesson even if he/she forgets the instrument and/or music. (Learning does take place by watching and listening.)
- If a student misses a lesson, he/she is encouraged to try to schedule a make-up lesson.

#### **Home Practice:** (3 points)

- The student will earn one-half point for each day of practicing a minimum twenty minutes. Students are expected to practice at least six days between each lesson and a minimum of 20 minutes during each day of practice. Additional practicing (more days and more time per day) is encouraged. Up to one bonus point may be earned for additional practicing.
- **Parents** - Parents are asked to initial the practice sheet prior to each lesson. (The practice sheet is attached inside the cover of the lesson book.)

**Lesson Performance:** (10 points)

- During the lesson, the teacher evaluates the student's performance of the assignment (i.e. preparation of exercises and songs from the lesson book, memorization of scales, preparation of music scheduled for an upcoming concert, preparation for an audition, etc.).

**Rehearsal Attendance:** (3 points per band rehearsal)

- Three points will be earned by attending each rehearsal with his/her instrument and music. The musician is expected to attend all rehearsals.
- One point will be deducted for arriving late to a rehearsal without a valid excuse from a teacher, parent, or the office.
- The student is expected to attend the rehearsal even if he/she forgets the instrument and/or music. (Learning does take place by watching and listening.)

**Attitude:** (2 points)

- In order for the musician and performance organization to improve and succeed, the student needs to demonstrate a positive and constructive attitude.

**Adjustments to Marking Period Grade:****+ Additions**

Up to five (5) points of "Extra Credit" may be earned each marking period by participating with their band instrument in the High School Marching Band (1 point), Jazz-Rock Ensemble (1 point), performing outside the school such as in church, at a scouting program, at a service club, etc. (1 point per performance), or by attending a high school, university, &/or professional band &/or orchestra concert (1 point).

**- Deductions:**

If the student fails to attend a scheduled performance, other than because of illness, injury, or death in the family, the instrumental music teacher will calculate up to an eighteen (18) point deduction in the student's nine-week grade. Parents will be notified in the event that a deduction is being considered.

**Report Card:**

- At the end of each marking period, a Band Progress Report will be sent home along with the student's regular academic report card. This Progress Report reflects the "weekly" lesson and rehearsal grades that support the grade earned for the marking period.

## **Attendance at Lessons, Rehearsals, and Performances:**

### **Lesson Attendance:**

- Students are expected to attend each scheduled lesson (one lesson each six-day cycle).
- If a student misses a lesson, he/she is encouraged to try to schedule a make-up lesson.

### **Excused Absence from a Lesson:**

- The student will be excused from the lesson when:
  - (a) he/she is absent from school on the day of the lesson or portion of the day when the lesson is scheduled.
  - (b) he/she cannot attend the lesson because of a major test, review for a major test, special class activity, classroom teacher request, etc., whether known in advance or discovered in class at the "last minute." When the student cannot attend a lesson, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instrumental music teacher about the conflict with the lesson, in order for the absence to be excused.
  - (c) the instrumental music teacher is not present for a lesson and a substitute is not hired for the absence.

### **Unexcused Absence from a Lesson:**

- An Unexcused Absence is when the student is present in school, fails to attend the lesson, and fails to provide the instrumental music teacher with an acceptable reason for being absent from a lesson. (See "Excused Absence from a Lesson") The student will not earn the Lesson Attendance, Home Practice, and Lesson Performance points for the missed lesson.

### **Make-up Lessons:**

- Make-up lessons are scheduled depending on the schedule and availability of the instrumental music teacher.
- If the student misses a scheduled lesson, the musician should contact the instrumental music teacher to try to schedule a make-up lesson. A make-up lesson needs to be scheduled within four school days after the missed lesson.

### **Private Lessons:**

- The student who participates in weekly "private lessons," outside of school, is also expected to attend the scheduled group lesson, during school. The student will work on music assigned to others in the group lesson and music scheduled for performance.

### **Band Rehearsal Schedules:**

- Rehearsal schedules are provided to each student near the beginning of the school year or when the student joins the organization (see "Welcome To Band" and Calendar). Typical rehearsal schedules are as follows:
  - (a) Prep Band (6th grade) rehearses twice each cycle, during Activity Periods.
  - (b) Advanced Band (7th & 8th grades plus invited advanced 6th grade musicians) rehearses twice each cycle during Activity Periods and two mornings each cycle, before school (7:20 am – 8:00 am).
  - (c) Jazz-Rock Ensemble rehearses one morning before school (7:10 am – 8:00 am), starting in late January.

**Band Rehearsal Attendance:**

- The student is expected to attend each scheduled rehearsal for the organization to which he/she belongs, with his/her instrument and music.
- Absences from school and late arrival to school, requiring a written excuse by the school office, are the only acceptable excuses for not attending a rehearsal.

**Performances (Concerts):**

- Attendance at each performance is required. A performance is the culmination of the student's work during the grading period, semester, and/or year. Since a performance cannot be "made-up" (unlike tests and many other culminating activities in most classroom subjects), it is imperative that the student musician participates in all performances and extra rehearsals.
- All concerts are scheduled one year in advance. They are published in the school calendar. The director also publishes a calendar of each group's important events and dates and provides it to each student near the beginning of the school year (See "Welcome To Band" and Calendar - both are also available on our website). Additional events (performances &/or rehearsals) and their dates are announced as far in advance of the occasion as possible.

**Absence from a Performance (Concert):**

- Illness, injury, or deaths in the family (requiring a parental excuse to the director in writing, by phone, or in person) are the only acceptable excuses for not attending and participating in a performance.
- If the student fails to attend a scheduled performance, other than because of illness, injury, or death in the family, the instrumental music teacher will calculate up to an eighteen (18) point deduction in the student's nine-week grade. Parents will be notified in the event that a deduction is being considered.

NOTE: A copy of this policy is also posted on the Band website.