



Linntown Elementary School

Instrumental Music Department - Band

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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 (a) attend lessons and rehearsals, (b) practice, (c) be receptive to teaching and help, and (d) demonstrate a positive and constructive attitude.

Evaluation and Grading:

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

Lesson Attendance:

- 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.)

Home Practice:

- Up to four points may be earned. 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 15 minutes during each day of practice (for the first 3 months of lessons) and 20 minutes during each day of practice (after the first 3 months on lessons). Additional practicing (more days and more time per day) is encouraged.
- **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:

- 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, etc.).

Rehearsal Attendance:

- The musician is expected to attend all rehearsals to remain in “good standing” in the band.
- 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:

- 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 performing outside the school such as in church, at a scouting program, at a service club, etc. (1 point per performance), or 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 an eighteen (18) point deduction in the student's nine-week grade.

Report Card:

- At the end of each marking period, a Band Progress Report will be sent home with the student's regular academic report card. This Progress Report reflects the student's strengths and weaknesses in the various aspects of playing an instrument (i.e., tone, hand position, rhythm, etc.) as well as 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) with their instrument and music.

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 Absences) The student will not earn the Lesson Attendance, Home Practice, and Lesson Performance points for 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 Rehearsals:

- The Fifth Grade Band rehearses every Day 5, beginning in December of each year, from 2:30 pm until 3:00 pm.

Band Rehearsal Attendance:

- The student is expected to attend each scheduled rehearsal with his/her instrument and music.
- Absence from school is the only acceptable excuses for not attending a rehearsal.

Performances (Concerts):

- 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 events (concerts & extra rehearsals) and their dates will be announced as far in advance of the occasion as possible.
- The Fifth Grade Band will perform along with the Middle School Prep (6th grade) Band at the annual Middle School Spring Band Concert. The concert is usually scheduled for 9:30 am and 7:30 pm, the Wednesday immediately before Memorial Day in May.

Absence from a scheduled Performance:

- Absence from school is the only acceptable excuse for not attending a scheduled extra rehearsal.
- 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. (See Adjustments: Deductions)