

**Lewisburg Area Middle School  
Instrumental Music (Strings)  
2057 Washington Avenue  
Lewisburg, PA 17837**

## **Instrumental Music (String) 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.

### **Lesson Evaluation and Grading:**

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

**Lesson Attendance:** The student will earn three points 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 can take place by watching and listening.)

- The student should make an effort to make-up any missed lesson.

**Home Practice:** Up to four points may be earned. The student will earn one-half point for practicing at least twenty minutes each day. (Students are encouraged to practice more than just twenty minutes per day.)

**Parents** - Please initial the practice sheet prior to each lesson. (The practice sheet is attached inside the cover of the lesson book.)

**Lesson Performance:** Up to ten points may be earned. During the lesson, the teacher evaluates the student's performance of the previous week's assignment (e.g. 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:** The musician is expected to attend all rehearsals during each six-day cycle. Three points will be earned by attending each rehearsal with his/her instrument and music. One (1) point may be deducted for late attendance to a rehearsal without a valid excuse from a teacher or the office. The student is expected to attend the rehearsal even if he/she forgets the instrument and/or music. (Learning can take place by watching and listening.)

**Attitude:** Five (5) points may be earned. In order for the musician and organization to succeed and grow, the student needs to demonstrate a positive and constructive attitude.

### **Adjustments:**

+ **Additions** -- Up to five (5) points of Extra Credit may be earned each marking period by participating with their string instrument in the Middle School Band (2 points), 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 attending a high school, university, &/or professional instrumental (band &/or orchestra) concert (1 point per concert).

#### **- Deductions:**

- If the student does not attend a scheduled extra rehearsal (e.g. evening rehearsal prior to a concert), other than because of illness, injury, or death in the family, the instrumental music teacher may calculate up to a nine (9) point deduction in the student's nine-week grade.
- If the student does not 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 String Progress Report will be sent home with the student's regular academic report card. This Progress Report reflects the "weekly" lesson and rehearsal grades that supports the grade earned for the marking period.

## **Lesson, Rehearsal, and Performance Attendance:**

**Lesson Attendance:** Students are expected to attend each scheduled lesson (one lesson each six-day cycle).

**Excused Absences:** The student will be excused from the lesson when:

- (a) he/she is absent from school on the day (or portion of the day) of the lesson.
- (b) he/she cannot attend the lesson because of a major test, review for a major test, special class activity, teacher request, etc., whether known in advance or discovered in class at the "last minute." The student must inform the instrumental music teacher, as soon as possible 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 Absences:**

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

**Make-up Lessons:** If the student misses a scheduled lesson, the musician should contact the instrumental music teacher to sign-up for a make-up lesson. The make-up lesson needs to be accomplished within six 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.

**Rehearsals:**

1) Rehearsal schedules are provided to each student near the beginning of the school year or when the student joins the organization. Typical rehearsal schedules are as follows:

- String Ensemble (all musicians) rehearses twice each cycle, during Activity Periods and rehearses a minimum of two mornings each cycle, before school (7:20am – 8:00 am).
- Advanced String Ensemble rehearses one morning before school (7:20 am – 8:00 am).

2) The student is expected to attend each scheduled rehearsal for the organization to which he/she belongs, with his/her instrument and music.

3) Absence from school and late arrival to school, requiring an excuse by the school office, are 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 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. Additional events (performances &/or rehearsals) and their dates are announced as far in advance of the occasion as possible. Typical concerts include:

- 1). Winter Concert in December (with Bands and Choruses)
- 2). Chamber Concert in late February/early March
- 3). Spring Concert in May (with Linntown and the High School Strings)
- 4). Pops Concert in late May/early June (with the High School Strings)

**Absence from a scheduled Extra Rehearsal and/or Performance:**

- Absence from school is the only acceptable excuse for not attending a scheduled extra rehearsal.
- Illness, injury, or a death in the family (requiring a parental excuse to the director in writing, by phone, or in person) is the only acceptable excuses for not attending and participating in a performance.