

NWGMS Band Expectations and Grading

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Belief Statement: Music is a means of expression. All people are born with the ability to make music. Instrumental music courses at Northwest Middle School are a pathway to lead students toward lifelong musical participation. We are here to help students develop their musical skills.

Student Expectations: Be on time. Bring your stuff. Try your best. Take chances. Learn from your mistakes. Take pride in your successes. Treat all members of the class and their property with courtesy and respect. When you treat others with respect, you earn respect in turn.

Materials: Students must have their materials with them every day. Materials for class include: Instrument (and accessories), method book (with name written on the front cover), class handouts, and a sharpened pencil.

Tests (40%): Tests are student assessments that occur live during class and/or at home using a recording app on the student tablets or other personal technology devices. Approximately every two weeks students will complete playing tests (performance assessments) to demonstrate their emerging skills. Along with playing tests, students will complete “paper and pencil” tests to demonstrate their emerging knowledge of music ideas, music history, and the relationship between music and other subjects.

Projects (40%): Along with tests, students will complete projects to demonstrate their mastery of the material taught. These may include reading, listening, writing, composing, recording, or technology-based musical activities.

Concerts (20%): Students will perform publicly as a group multiple times throughout the year. These performances are “capstone” experiences that summarize the skill-related learning that has occurred during instruction. If a student misses a concert, he or she will have to record a performance of the concert material for the teacher within three school days of the missed concert or receive a grade of “0” for the concert. The concert schedule is posted on our canvas page and you have been provided with a physical copy.

“Do Overs”: If a student wishes to improve a test grade, he or she can retake each test until they are satisfied with their grade. Retakes are due one week before the end of the quarter.

Morning Practice: Beginning September 11, students will have opportunity to attend morning rehearsals from 8:00-8:25 a.m. This time is primarily reserved for students who are preparing to audition for All-County, All-District, and All-State Honors Bands. With teacher permission, students needing additional help with music for class may also attend.