

# **WARREN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY**

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians of the Instrumental Music Department,

Grading for instrumental students is based on both the group lesson and their band rehearsal/concerts with the expectation that all students will participate and practice on a regular basis. During the weekly small group lesson, students will receive individualized instruction that will directly address their playing technique and musical understanding which will help them be more successful in band classes. Due to the importance of the small group lesson to your child's progress and an approximate ratio of one lesson for every three band classes, each lesson grade will receive a higher weight than each band class.

Band class = 40%  
Lesson = 40%  
Concert = 10%  
Scales = 5%  
Assignments = 5%

## **1. Absence from a lesson**

**ACCEPTABLE EXCUSED ABSENCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AND MUST BE CONVEYED TO THE LESSON TEACHER PRIOR TO PERIOD 1:**

- Major test reviews
- Tests
- Labs
- School absence

**(The student can make up a lesson by attending another lesson in the same week in their grade level with prior approval from the lesson teacher).**

- **For shorter evaluations (Quizzes and Graded Assessments), the students should report to their lesson upon finishing the assignment.**

### **If unexcused for a lesson:**

The student's grade will be reduced by 25% that day for the lesson if the student has submitted a completed practice log for the week prior to the start of that school day.

If the student fails to attend lessons and has not submitted a completed practice log, it will result in a 0% grade for that lesson.

**PLEASE NOTE: By signing this contract you commit to remaining in the band for the entire school year. There will be one drop period following the December 18th concert that will end on January 5th.**

## **2. Class Preparation/Participation**

### **Required materials (Instrument, method book, folder, and pencil):**

If a student does not have their instrument, their grade will be reduced by 20% for that class.

Any other missing item will be a reduction of 5% for each item for that class period.

## **3. Practice Log Grading:**

**Completed practice logs include: a minimum of 3 days of practice submitted on the day of each practice session, a minimum of 75 minutes for the week, and details of what they worked on.**

Students are expected to practice a minimum of 3 days each week and should be spread out evenly throughout the week in order to retain what was taught in lessons. *Any less than 3 days in a week will result in a loss of 5% for that lesson.*

Students practice should begin within the first two days following their school lesson. *If a student does not begin practicing by day 2, their grade will be reduced by 1% for every day until their start day.*

Students must complete a practice log entry for each day that they practice on the day that they practice. *If multiple days are logged on the same day, only the first entry will count towards their weekly requirement.*

### **For each week the student practiced less than 75 minutes:**

5% off if the student completes 50-74 minutes for the week

10% off if the student completes 25-49 minutes for the week

15% off if the student completes 15-24 minutes for the week

Students will receive extra credit for completing 85 minutes or more for one week.

*Practice logs not completed for the week will reduce the student's grade by 20% for that class.*

If a practice log does not contain detail about what they practiced, *the student's grade will be reduced by 5% for that class.*

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4. Each marking period, students will be required to perform scales and ensemble music identified by their director at a satisfactory level.
5. Student improvement from week to week will also play an important role in grading.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE WILL BE GRADED AS A  
DOUBLE TEST GRADE  
(EQUAL TO 6 BAND CLASSES OR 2 LESSONS)**

**WINTER CONCERT - DECEMBER 18, 2025**

**SPRING CONCERT - MAY 27, 2026**

Thank you,

Ms. Backus and Mr. Van Tine

**\*\*\*PLEASE KEEP THIS GRADING POLICY FOR FUTURE REFERENCE\*\*\***

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**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MS. BACKUS  
AND MR. VAN TINE  
(NO LATER THAN 9/19/25)**

**I have read the Grading Policy Sheet and fully understand the terms, conditions and consequences.**

**Name of student** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please Print Name)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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