



GRADE EVALUATION

In every academic class, a passing grade is 60 on a 100-point scale. However, if a musician playing a solo performed only six of every ten notes correctly, an audience would not judge the performance, or the performer, favorably. Now imagine that each member of a large ensemble such as ours missed three out of every ten notes during a performance. There would be thousands of wrong notes during the performance, and we would never want to perform again in public (or private!) if this were to happen. Therefore, students are expected to rise above the “it sounded okay to me,” or “I got most of the notes right” mentality. Each student must make perfection his or her goal at all times, and work daily to come as close to this goal as possible. Remember, we are an ensemble, and we will only sound and perform as good as our weakest member.

The following areas will be used when making grade and conduct evaluations for progress reports and report cards:

- Consistent improvement on your instrument through at-home practice
- Proper behavior during classroom rehearsals and concerts
- Playing, based on appropriate classroom instruction (this includes playing tests)
- Written exams, aural skills, and classroom theory work
- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances – NO EXCEPTIONS!!
- Having all materials at each rehearsal
- *Failure to bring an instrument to class, failure to play an instrument in class, or having an instrument that is not in proper playing condition will result in ten points being deducted from the daily grade, as instruments are paramount to your skill development and mastery of our curriculum.*

The standard Cabarrus County Schools grading scale will be used to assign all letter grades. Grades for all ensembles will be awarded according to the following method:

- Playing Tests 30%
- Daily In-Class Performance Preparation 30%
- Concert Performances (at least one per quarter) 30%
- Written assignments 10%

Cabarrus County Schools Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

PLEASE NOTE: If a student’s personal instrument is in poor playing condition, he or she is expected to take it to a repair shop immediately. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade due to loss of daily participation points. If a student must take an instrument in to be repaired, get a signed note or voucher from the music dealer. This will serve as your “pass” for your instrument and you will not lose any points while your instrument is being repaired or serviced.

In order to continue in the Hickory Ridge Band program, a student must maintain an average of “C” or better, and/or have no significant behavior problems. Students who do not meet these criteria will be removed from the band program. At Hickory Ridge, we all pull our own weight. This is how we will establish, build, and maintain a solid tradition of excellence!



CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

Each band member should have the following supplies in class each day:

1. Instrument – students are expected to have an instrument in working condition, all accessories (reeds, mouthpiece, valve oil, mutes, etc.)
2. Percussionists are expected to have your own snare sticks, general yarn mallets, medium timpani mallets, and a stick bag. Specialty mallets will be supplied by the band.
3. Pencil – never mark music in pen so that changes can be made
4. Warm-Up Book and Music
5. Students will be provided with a folder for music, but may elect to get a small three-ring binder and sheet protectors for music.

CHARMS

Each student will have an online account at www.charmsoffice.com. From this site, parents and students will be able to monitor financial accounts for extra-curricular activities and class trips, update contact information, view merit point totals, view school-owned instruments that are assigned to a student, download and print important forms and schedules, and do many other things. This is the most important site we use. It is password protected so you have a level of security and confidentiality with your directory and financial information on a “non-public” website.

AWARDS

Each year, members of the band have the opportunity to earn a variety of awards within the Hickory Ridge Band program. Awards are given based upon the number of merit points that students earn throughout the year. The form can be found on Mr. White’s classroom website. Awards for both semesters are presented each year at the Band Banquet at the end of the year. The event is open to all band members and their families. To be eligible for an award, you must participate in an ensemble during the year, have good attendance, a good work record, and not have received any formal disciplinary actions during the year. Please see the awards merit system for an explanation on receiving awards and letters.

BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The Hickory Ridge Band Booster Organization meets at 7:00pm on the first Thursday of each month in the Band Room. As parents of children in the band program you are automatically voting members of this organization, so please come out and support the band students. Each month we discuss the important events of the program, organize support for our various functions, and answer any questions you may have.

IMPORTANT DATES AND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

All dates for spring and summer performances, rehearsals, honor band auditions and clinics can be found online on Mr. White’s calendar. Please visit <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/Page/7870> for all details.