



WMS Band Grades

Grades help monitor a student's progress in band. To help improve their playing and the performance level of the bands, students should practice at home on new concepts and music that are difficult or challenging. Grades will be lessons attended and band awards (playing tests) passed.

WMS Band Grading Policy

Grades will be used to help monitor a student's progress in band. To help improve their playing and the performance level of the bands, students should practice at home every day. Part of the student's grade will be based on lessons attended. Lessons are scheduled once a week during the school day. Any missed lesson can be made up. If a student misses a lesson because of a "no school" day it is an excused lesson.

The number of band awards passed during lessons will also determine part of the student's grade (and chair placement in band). Band awards are playing tests taken from the lesson book to determine if the student has mastered certain concepts. At the start of each year, students are given a list of band awards based on the Band Awards System by John M. Cherry (Barnhouse Music). To pass a band award, the student needs to play with no mistakes, tap the beat/count out loud, and play with good tone/proper sticking. Students are allowed one chance per day to pass a band award. If they pass, they can go on to the next band award at that lesson. If they don't pass, they need to practice the band award AT HOME and try to pass it at their next lesson.

To receive an "A" letter grade:

1. The student needs to attend 90% of their weekly lessons.
(A "no-school" day is not counted as missing a lesson)
2. The student will pass an average of 5-6 lesson book lines a week.
3. The student will pass 10 band awards per quarter.

To receive a "B" letter grade:

1. The student needs to attend 80% of their weekly lessons.
(A "no-school" day is not counted as missing a lesson)
2. The student will pass an average of 4 lesson book lines weekly.
3. The student will pass 9-8 band awards per quarter.

To receive a "C" letter grade:

1. The student needs to attend 70% of their weekly lessons.
(A "no-school" day is not counted as missing a lesson)
2. The student will pass an average of 3 lesson book lines per week.
3. The student will pass 7-6 band awards per quarter.

To receive a "D" letter grade:

1. The student needs to attend 60% of their weekly lessons.
(A “no-school” day is not counted as missing a lesson)
2. The student will pass an average of 2 lesson book lines per week.
3. The student will pass 5-4 band awards per quarter.

Performance Attendance Every concert performance is like a final “test” of the band’s performance for that quarter (and also earns band awards for the students). An unexcused absence will result in the students’ grade being lowered by one full letter grade. Band festivals, playing for community activities, solo/ensemble participation and jazz band are other ways to earn extra credit to raise your band grade.