

# Elementary Band Grades

## I. Lesson Attendance

It is essential that students attend all sectional classes and rehearsals. If a student is unable to attend a lesson, he or she must see me as soon as possible. Students are required to complete all practice assignments regardless of attendance.

## II. Performance Assessments

All students will be assessed regularly, both formally and informally during their sectional classes. These assessments are used to determine strengths and weaknesses and to help me shape my instruction to address the students' needs. Assessments include areas such as technique, hand position, posture, articulation (tonguing and slurring), music reading, breath support, tone quality, and fingerings: the fundamentals of performance on the instrument.

## III. Participation/Preparation

Students must attend lessons, come prepared with all required materials (instrument, music, folder, pencil, and completed practice card), and participate appropriately during lessons and rehearsals.

## IV. Practice Habits

As in any discipline, proper and sufficient practice is a key to improvement. Since a regular practice routine is a new concept for many elementary instrumental students, I require all students to complete a weekly practice card. This card is a record of the student's home practice time. Practice cards should be signed by a parent/guardian before they are collected at every sectional. Students are responsible for picking up a new practice card at each sectional. They will also need to write their new assignments on a special assignment sheet that I will provide.

## V. Concert Attendance

Students are required to participate in our Winter and Spring concerts. Concerts are not only valuable musical learning experiences, but are also opportunities for students to demonstrate their progress. Due to the nature of a performing group, missing members will likely place a burden on his or her fellow band members and may diminish the quality of the performance for everyone. Illness and emergencies are the only reasons a student should miss a concert. Concert grades will only be given for quarters when there have been performances.