

**NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC GRADING POLICY  
Grades 6 - 8**

Grading of students in the North Middle School music program will be based on the achievement of full participation, basic performance skills, and knowledge of the subject matter.

Membership in the North Middle School Bands requires attendance and participation in all scheduled concerts and festivals. Failure to do so will result in your marking period grade being lowered two full letter grades (Example: A- becomes C-). When excused in advance by the director, students with absences due to emergency or illness will be allowed to make up the missed performance. All students must follow the attendance policy outlined in attached document; Student Expectations. Students must be in attendance at school for at least ½ the school day to be allowed to attend and perform in a concert.

All students are responsible for their instruments, music, and folders assigned to them. Music that has become mutilated or lost will be replaced at the expense of the student at the cost of 50 cents/page. Students who use school owned instruments are responsible for repair or replacement of any school instruments that become damaged or lost while in their possession.

**The Rank System:** I have divided the curriculum into 12 “Ranks” (one per marking period). Each Rank has three components; Scales, Music Theory and exercises from the band book. Students will be expected to practice these at home and play them with the computer. Students will be given ample class time to work with the computer. Computers will also be available at lunch, and before and after school. I am using Smartmusic Software to assist students and to assess their progress. (see below in Performance Grading). Students will be given a grade on their progress and always have the opportunity to retake any performance exercise they wish. Grades will be given for each marking period based on the average of the scores for the performance grades along with participation and other written assignments. They will be expected to be assessed on all of the requirements each marking period for the rank they are working on.

**Students will be graded in the following areas:  
PARTICIPATION/PERFORMANCES - 40%**

Positive student behavior and attitude are crucial to the success of the ensemble. Students begin each marking period with 50 participation points. Points are deducted from the 50 points when participation is not achieved. The participation grade is then figured using the percentage of the remainder of the 50 points at the end of each marking period. Full participation will be earned by following the participation guidelines.

- \* Student is prepared for class - *daily practice is necessary*
- \* Student works positively in a group environment
- \* Student is ready for rehearsal on time with all necessary equipment, including a pencil
- \* Positive attitude, respect, care of instrument, and courtesy are demonstrated in class
- \* Working with full concentration on task during the entire class period
- \* We follow the North Middle School attendance, tardy, and discipline policies and procedures

**PERFORMANCE SKILLS -45%**

Individual performance will be evaluated each marking period.

- \* Student is able to perform required scales, etudes and band repertoire
- \* In-class demonstrations, playing exams
- \* Student demonstrates increased technical ability and musicianship

**Performance Grading:** Students will have the opportunity to use the newest version of the SmartMusic Software. There are 6 computers in the classroom. All exercises from the Rank sheets are in smartmusic. Students should be prepared to practice the required exercises at home and play them during class on smartmusic, which will evaluate them. Smartmusic saves the evaluations to an online server that you are able to monitor.

*Please see other side.*

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS - 15%**

- \* Knowledge of music terminology
- \* Student turns in completed assignments on time
- \* Evaluation Journals
- \* Music theory assignments
- \* Other written assignments

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS:**

- \* A maximum of 8 absences will be allowed. Over 8 absences will result in 5 points per absence taken from the participation points for each marking period.
- \* Student must participate in all performances in which their group is involved (see attached schedule)

**GRADE WEIGHTS:**

The semester grade is computed using the following weights:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Marking period 1 = 50% | Marking period 3 = 50% |
| Marking period 2 = 50% | Marking period 4 = 50% |