

W. W. Lewis Band Grading Policy

The Calcasieu Parish Policy Statement for Secondary School Performing Groups is available for your review either in my office or through Mr. Pat DeVille at the Curriculum and Instruction Office of the Calcasieu Parish School System. Below I have highlighted a few important points that will help you to understand my grading system.

-The Practice Chart- (Beginner Band Students Only)

My personal belief is that any band student, regardless of talent, who gives maximum effort and displays topnotch responsibility should receive an A. For beginners, we use a weekly practice chart which is a record of the time that your child practices during each week. This is done to establish the habit of routine practice and to help make you and your child aware of exactly how much time is being utilized. There are normally six practice charts during a six week period. The grades from these reports will count one-third of the student's six-week grade. PLEASE, ask your child for their chart each day so that you can monitor their habits. Remember, in most cases the instrument is your investment. Also, a child cannot improve without practice, and as they fall behind the others, they will lose interest in band and will want to drop out. Dropouts are rare among students who practice regularly. I tell them many times that the better they get, the more fun they will have playing their instrument!

-Remainder of Grading for Beginners-

The other two-thirds of the beginner grade will be derived from worksheets, weekly playing assessments, participation, and equipment checks.

-Concert and Symphonic Band Students-

Your grade for each six weeks will be generated through weekly playing assessments, participation, and equipment checks.

-Concerts and Outside Performances-

Band is a team effort! Therefore it is essential that absolutely everyone participate in public performances. The absence of just a single member can be detrimental to the performance of the entire group. Therefore, in accordance with the Parish Policy, any student who has an UNEXCUSED absence from any public band performance (including but not limited to Concerts, Pep Rallies, Honor Band Auditions (where applicable), Honor Band Performances) may result in the lowering of a member's six week grade by a maximum of two letter grades. Excused absences are severe illness (or contagiousness) of the student with a doctor's excuse or death in the immediate family. Please try to avoid making travel plans during a scheduled concert. Non-school sanctioned athletic events are not excused. In all cases, PLEASE try to contact me BEFORE an excused absence occurs if at all possible.

-Participation-

Daily participation is the key to success. This means that the student must follow the 4 R's:
Be at the

1. **R**ight Place at the
2. **R**ight Time with the
3. **R**ight Equipment with the
4. **R**ight Attitude

I understand that we all make mistakes, so if a student forgets his/her instrument at home, please try to get it to them. The first offense each semester is free. Subsequent offenses may lower the students six week grade by .2 points (example, 3.6, an A, becoming a 3.4, which is a B.). If the offense happens on a SCHEDULED playing assessment day, the student will lose his/her chair and

fail the test with no chance for a make-up. No other action will be required so as to avoid “double jeopardy.” During the band periods that he/she does not have an instrument I will assign them an administrative duty, such as sorting music, to make sure that they do not become bored and detract from the rehearsal. For Beginners, this policy goes into effect after Labor Day. For all others, it is immediate. As you can see, I take participation very seriously.

-Instrument Repair-

There will be times when your student’s instrument will need to be repaired. If the repair is not an emergency, please try to schedule it during the holidays. If the repair is badly needed, please send me a note and I will allow the student to participate, if possible, on one of my loaner instruments. When the repair is finished, please send a repair ticket so that I can confirm receipt of the instrument.

IMPORTANT: Instrument repair will not affect your child’s grade provided that I have a note from you on file.

-Disruptive Behavior-

I try to handle as much of the discipline within the band myself. There are peculiarities that are found in the Band Class situation that make each situation unique. If I believe that a band student is being disruptive to the point that it is affecting his/her participation, I will notify you or the student’s team. No horseplay, including running, will be permitted. We are very crowded AND we all have expensive equipment. It is too easy for someone to get injured or to break their (or someone else’s) instrument. Horseplay will result in removal of the student to the front office with a parish disciplinary form. In all cases, if a student damages another student’s instrument as a result of horseplay or reckless behavior, the student in violation of the rules will be held liable for the damage to that instrument. This uncomfortable situation CAN be avoided. Accidents are extremely rare. In almost all cases, damage that is done to another person’s instrument is a result of reckless behavior, I take this very seriously for the safety of the students and for the peace of mind of the parents.

-THE BOTTOM LINE-

Maximum effort + Maximum attitude = A in Band.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any concerns.

School: 527-0609

Home: 528-2383

Tim McMillen

Director of Bands