

Riverton High School Band Program

Grading Policy

Policies and procedures used to determine grades in the following ensembles:

- Symphonic Band
- Percussion Ensembles
- Marching Band & Pep Band
- Chamber Ensembles
- Concert Band
- JV & Varsity Jazz Ensembles
- Colorguard

This grading policy is designed to allow Mr. Fallon to assess individual student progress & achievement in five main areas: Professionalism, Participation, Individual Preparation, Application of Knowledge, and Individual Progress. Although variations in grading policies exist among the various ensembles, grades in all ensembles are determined largely by a number of identical components. The assessment and grading components that are held in-common among all instrumental ensembles are listed below.

Ensemble Grading Areas:

I. – Professionalism: (15%)

- ◆ Punctual arrival to all classes, rehearsals, performances, & other scheduled events.
- ◆ Consistent preparation with music, well-maintained instrument, pencil, & other needed supplies.
- ◆ Consistent compliance with classroom rules and guidelines.
- ◆ Attitude of respect toward faculty, staff, administrators, parents, classmates, visitors, & guests.
- ◆ Positive contribution to a successful, pleasant, & effective classroom environment.

II. – Participation: (40%)

- ◆ Responsiveness, Focused Effort & Positive Attitude during rehearsals, warm-ups and performances.
- ◆ Students will be required to attend *at least* one concert every quarter & write a brief report on each concert.
- ◆ Students will be required to listen to a number of recordings throughout the year and write a brief listening report describing the music in terms of its genre, style, quality of performance/interpretation, etc.
- ◆ Actively Engaged, Attentive, & non-Disruptive behavior in class.
- ◆ Attendance to all classes, rehearsals, performances, & other scheduled events.
 - Since all concerts & events are scheduled months in advance, absence will not be excused except in the event of emergency or serious illness. Failure to attend any scheduled concert or event will result in a 0% in the **Participation** component of your grade.
 - Attendance will be taken every day, during the 1st five minutes of class. Instruction will begin three minutes after the bell and will end five minutes before the class-end bell in order to allow time to pack, unpack, assemble & organize instruments and other materials.
 - Attendance Policy with regard to rehearsals (each rehearsal is worth 10 points):
 - Excused Tardy **or** Excused Early Dismissal = -1 point
 - Unexcused Tardy **or** Unexcused Early Dismissal = -3 points
 - Excused Absence = -5 points
 - Unexcused Absence = 0 points
 - Attendance w/out Equipment (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) = -7 points
 - 3 unexcused tardy arrivals are equivalent to 1 unexcused absence.
 - 10 point deduction from final attendance portion of the **Participation** component.

III. – Individual Preparation: (20%)

- ◆ Weekly Practice Records – collected every Monday to account for the previous week. Graded as follows:
 - Practice records should be goal-oriented, and should help you to create measurable objectives that will propel you toward excellence in music. Achievement of your personal goals will be heavily factored.
 - Students should expect to practice 45 minutes (consecutively) each day, Monday through Friday.
 - > 225 minutes/week = A (Great!!!)
 - 180-224 minutes/week = B (Okay.)
 - 135-179 minutes/week = C (Nothing to Brag About.)
 - 90-134 minutes/week = D (Poor.)
 - < 90 minutes/week = F (Insufficient level of practice.)
- ◆ Playing Tests – administered frequently; either tape-recorded, digitally recorded using Smart Music® software, or in-person.

IV. – Application of Knowledge: (15%)

- ◆ Students will take written tests covering material discussed in class, including:
 - Scales, Key Signatures & the order of sharps and flats (major & minor)
 - Music Theory, as it pertains to each ensemble
 - Meanings of Musical terms (from provided vocabulary lists)
 - Historical Background and Contextual Antecedents surrounding the composition &/or performance practice of music performed by respective ensemble(s).
- ◆ Students will be assigned four projects, each worth 50 points – one due during each quarter.
 - 1st quarter – Library Assignment; finding music and other musical resources using the Media Center.
 - 2nd quarter – Biographical Outline of Composer or Performing Artist of student's choice.
 - 3rd quarter – Solo performance of a short, accompanied selection for student's primary instrument.
 - 4th quarter – Short Transcription *or* Composition; solo for student's primary instrument.
- ◆ Short take-home quizzes and written assignments will be given, on occasion, to help assess students' understanding of the material being discussed in class and to help determine the pace of the curriculum.
- ◆ Assignments & Projects may be submitted late **for partial credit**. Late work will receive a deduction of **one full letter grade** for each day that separates the original due date and the actual date of submission. **Translation** – *for assignments submitted more than four days late, the best grade possible is a D.*
- ◆ Late work will not be accepted during the final week of any grading period.

V. – Individual Progress: (10%)

- ◆ Students will receive a personal progress grade at the end of each quarter. The progress grade will be determined by each student's individual progress—not in comparison to other students in the ensemble.
 - Student's self-evaluation of his or her own progress = 60% of the grade for this component.
 - Teacher's evaluation of student's progress = 40% of the grade for this component.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

- ◆ For students whose grades have fallen below a desirable percentage, there are limited opportunities to earn extra credit points. However, it is important to note that such opportunities may only raise a student's average by *half* of a letter-grade (i.e. from a C- to a C+, or from a B+ to an A-, and so on).
- ◆ All extra credit assignments **must be approved** by Mr. Fallon on an individual basis prior to submission.
- ◆ Absolutely **NO** extra credit will be approved or accepted during the final two weeks of any grading period.
- ◆ All of the extra credit in the known Universe will not make up for failure to attend a prescheduled concert or event! So, do not miss concerts or other events. Extra credit will not be approved to make-up for doing so.
 - Here is a list of some possible extra credit opportunities:
 - Work sorting & organizing materials in the band &/or orchestra libraries.
 - Organize a well-rehearsed small ensemble to give a 30 minute performance at a local hospital or assisted living facility (retirement home).
 - Attend a *pre-approved* concert and write a critical review of the performance.
 - Staying after concerts to break down and clean the stage, auditorium and band/orchestra room.
 - Providing tutorial assistance to music students with academic challenges in general subjects.