

WILDE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Grading Policy 2016 - 2017

Your grade in band will be based on a combination of class participation, sectional participation, home practice, and performance assessments. The calculation will be based on the following scale:

Class Participation:	40%
Sectional Participation:	25%
Performance Assessments:	25%
Home Practice:	10%

Class Participation grades will be directly related to the Wilde Lake RRRockS! Three-R'S campaign. Students must be Respectful, Responsible, Ready, and Safe.

- ★ Come to class with required materials (see Required Materials list)
- ★ Stay on task
- ★ Be courteous and respectful to the teacher and fellow students

Sectional Attendance is MANDATORY. Students are required to attend one sectional class a week. Students must be on time and prepared with all materials and assignments to receive full credit. The only excused absence from a sectional is one pre-arranged by Mr. Messick and the respective pull-out teacher. --- A sectional schedule will be created and disseminated in the first week of school, and updated schedules will be posted on the band website. Sectionals will be 50 minute classes, pull-out-style, through all classes, once a week, on a 5 week rotation. Students must make up any work that is missed during their sectionals. The pull-out absence will be treated as if the student missed the class due to an illness, and he will be given the same consideration with respect to making up missed assignments.

Home Practice: Students are required to turn in one signed practice chart a week at their sectional time. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 6 days a week. There is a blank practice chart posted under the Policies and Forms tab on the band website: wlmsband.weebly.com. On the chart is space for the weekly assignments/concepts to be listed, and space for the description of work on each concept. (Rather than a daily time requirement, the students are expected to practice their assignments until a satisfactory level of performance has been accomplished.) I will award points for the level of completion of the practice chart.

Performance Assessments will be given based on the schedule included in the syllabus in this packet.

★ To pass a playing test, students must achieve at least an 84% competency level. Students have the option to re-take playing tests as many times as necessary to pass. The points are calculated based on the following formula: A maximum of 10 points will be given in each of the following competency areas: Tone quality, Rhythmic accuracy, Interpretation, Posture, Intonation. In the event that Smart Music is used as the vehicle to grade, the official score will be that given by the computer.

★ Students will also be required to attend a professional (or high school or college) instrumental performance once a quarter. A written evaluation/review of each performance must be submitted to Mr. Messick in order to earn the attendance credit. WLMS English composition standards are expected.

★ Students will be seated in their instrument sections in ascending order based on the score results of their September playing test. Any student who wishes to change seats may "challenge" the student sitting immediately above him/her by following these steps: 1) Set a date for the "challenge" with the other student and Mr. Messick. 2) Perform a musical selection of Mr. Messick's choosing at the set appointment. The scores from each student's performance will be compared, and the official seat assignments will be adjusted accordingly, either by trading seating assignments or remaining in the same order. If a student initiates a "challenge", and is successful in winning a new seat, he/she may immediately arrange to "challenge" the next student in the section. A "challenging" student may continue this process as many times, and as frequently as he/she wishes, but only if the "challenges" continue to be successful. If a "challenging" student is unsuccessful at winning the next seat up, he/she must wait a full month before initiating the next "challenge". *If a student refuses to set a date with Mr. Messick when approached by a "challenging" student, or fails to show for the set event, that student automatically forfeits his/her seat, and will switch seats with the "challenging" student.

★ There are 3 required performances for all band students: Winter Concert, Howard County Assessment/Adjudication, Spring Concert. (FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A REQUIRED PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF "0" PER MISSED PERFORMANCE)

Extra Credit is awarded for students taking private lessons, attendance at more than one high school or professional level fine arts concert each quarter, and participation in solo and ensemble festivals, auditions, and participation in extra-curricular musical groups.