

Doe Creek Band Handbook 2006

Criteria for earning an **OUTSTANDING GRADE**

Doe Creek Instrumental Music Department

- Student bring a WORKING instrument daily.
- Student attends ALL performances and is ON TIME for call times.
- Student is in seat and ready with ALL needed materials when needed and instrument in working order.
- Student actively participates in class and is prepared with assigned music.
- Student is well prepared for playing quizzes and tests. Extra help is available ANY morning with advanced notice.
- Student completes work and/ or make up work in a timely manor.
- Student practices AT LEAST the suggested average (120 minutes a week).

How can Parents Help?

- **Enforce the recommended daily practice time (20 minutes a day).**
- **Monitor** the student's instrument and equipment to ensure it is in WORKING CONDITION and that the student has all required materials (listed in this packet).
- **Be aware** of activities and concerts in band and ensure that the student arrives at the required time.
- **Support** your child in this discipline – it takes hard work and dedication to be successful in mastering an instrument!!!

Important band information including: Concert schedule, important dates, and other information will SOON be available at <http://www.newpalband.org/> under the “Performances” tab...check back for details!

Grading System

Band is a co-curricular activity, which means that some of the activities of the class carry to events which take place after school, such as concert obligations. Concerts are a MANDATORY part of the class and all members are expected to attend. Since there will not be extra-curricular events scheduled on evenings of band concerts, excused absences are allowed only if a child is sick from school, or there is an extenuating circumstance which is OK'ed BY THE DIRECTOR. Sporting practices and other extra-curricular activities will not be an allowable excuse for missing a concert. The result of an unexcused absence will result in two drops of a letter grade.

Grades for each 9-week period are based on 4 basic areas. Not all areas will be included in every grading period (for instance there may be no performance for the 9-week period). These areas include the following:

- 1. Classroom Preparation and Participation** – includes bringing your instrument, music, pencil (not a pen), journal, other supplies, as well as your preparation for playing the assigned music for the day. Failure to bring your instrument or supplies may result in loss of points for that day.
- 2. Playing/ writing assignments and quizzes** – are given periodically through the 9 weeks and include information covered in class. Students will have advanced notice of all tests and quizzes in order to prepare successfully. A “**Check-off**” will be frequently given in class and are a way to quickly assess the ability and knowledge of each musician. *NOTE: Students are allowed to re-take playing tests, quizzes, and check-off's as many times and are done so before school.*
- 3. Performances** – All performances are mandatory for every musician and is supported by a **corporation policy** which enforces an automatic drop of 2 letter grades for any student who fails to meet a required performance. Every musician is important to the ensemble so please plan to attend. Performance schedules are always passed out in class.
- 4. Practice Cards** – are a way for the director and parents to communicate on the amount of practice accomplished by each student. Although each practice card is only worth a few points, *missing these assignments on a regular basis can negatively impact a students grade.*

Performance Dress Code

At DCMS we uphold an image of professionalism as well as our continued pursuit of excellence. Appearance at performances should reflect these ideas and values. Dress for concerts is considered **casual but professional**. Here are a few suggestions...

Ladies – Dress/skirt (not above knees), nice blouse, dress shoes.

Gentlemen – Dress pants, dress shirt (tie optional), dress shoes (no white socks).

NOTE: no jeans, tee shirts, sweatshirts, sneakers, or inappropriate cloths will be worn for concerts. *Failure to comply with the band dress code will result in an absence from the performance.*

A note regarding the 9-class schedule

3 day rotation – Band classes will now be on a 3 day rotation with NO ‘all’ day. What this means is that a week of class might look like the following...

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>
Woodwinds	Percussion	Brass	Woodwinds	Percussion

Notice that the brass class has only met ONCE during the week. Every week this will happen to a different class. Knowing that success in music is build upon frequency and repetition; I have implemented the flexibility for students to attend band class during some of their personal resource periods. This means that once a week, a student might be removed from this personal resource period to attend class a minimum of 2 times a week. This would be communicated to the students well in advance as to not hinder their ability to prepare in other class areas.

Private Lessons

A New Schedule Brings a New Opportunity – With the addition of a personal resource period, students will (for the first time) have the option of receiving private lessons from a professional instructor on their instrument. Knowing that middle school parents as JUST as busy as the students, I will be offering the option to **receive lessons during the school day**. These lessons will be on a first come first serve basis. For parents who don’t receive this option, or would rather receive their lessons outside of the school day, lessons will also be available after school at NPHS.

Doe Creek Handbook

This is your first **30 point** assignment in class...

Please sign and return by Friday August 25, 2005

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Instrument: _____

This acknowledges that my child and I have read and agreed to the terms and policies set forth for the doe creek band during the 2006-2007 school year.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Private lessons are a great way for a student to gain knowledge on an individual basis. Students who enroll in private lessons gain a more in-depth understanding of their instrument, become more proficient, and enjoy a greater amount of success in class. I HIGHLY recommend private lessons for all students at Doe Creek. Please take a moment to check one of the following.

___ I am interested in private lessons during the School Day.

___ I am interested in private lessons after School.

___ I am not interested in private lessons.