

Holicong Band Grading Policy

Many educators believe that students should do work to the best of their ability in order to earn a grade. I view things a bit differently for band. I believe that if you strive to do the work to the best of your ability the grade will take care of itself. In other words, if you are always trying to do your best there is nothing to worry about. With that in mind, here are my grading basics:

1. Be where you need to be when you need to be there.
2. Be prepared and be doing what you need to be doing.
3. Be responsible for, and aware of, due dates, rehearsal dates, and concert dates.
4. Always give your best effort and do everything to the best of your ability.
5. Treat everyone and everything with respect.

All grades will be based on a 10-point scale with multipliers being used to stress the importance of a particular assignment. Below is a quick reference guide that will give you an idea of the weighting:

- Daily Preparation: **10 points/rotation (x1)**
 - Are you coming prepared with your instrument, folder/book, and pencil each class?
 - *Formative Assessment*
- Daily Class and Rehearsal Etiquette: **10 points/rotation (x1)**
 - Are you focused and engaged during class?
 - Are you demonstrating correct posture?
 - Are you always giving your best effort?
 - *Formative Assessment*
- Weekly Practice Assessments: **10 points/week (x1)**
 - Any Practice Assessment turned in late will be docked one full letter grade
 - This will be explained on the next page
 - *Summative Assessment*
- Performance Assessments: **10 points/assignment (x3) → 30 points total**
 - Any Performance Assessment turned in late will be docked one full letter grade
 - *Summative Assessment*
- Grade-Level Rehearsals: **10 points/rehearsal (x1)**
 - *Summative Assessment*
- Dress Rehearsal: **10 points (x2) → 20 points total**
 - *Summative Assessment*
- Concert: **10 points (x3) → 30 points total**
 - *Summative Assessment*

Weekly Practice Assessments

There is no shortcut around practicing. The simple truth is that if you want to improve as a musician you need to practice. The most important goal of these assessments is to get you playing your instrument at home. There is no minimum length, but in order to receive full credit you do need to submit something that demonstrates what you are working on. If it is a shorter example, maybe play it twice on the recording so that I can listen for improvement and adjustments. If it is a longer example, once works just fine.

Student Responsibilities:

- ✓ One (1) practice assessment will be submitted each week unless I tell you otherwise.
- ✓ Each assessment can be submitted at any time but must be turned in by 11:59 PM on Sunday night.
- ✓ Whatever you want to play for your submission is fine! This includes:
 - Parts of the pieces we are working on (for Jazz and Wind as well)
 - A Standard of Excellence exercise (one that is being used for an upcoming Performance Assessment or just one that you like)
 - Audition music
 - Pop music/Movie music that you have purchased, downloaded, or found online
 - Holiday songs
 - An original piece that you are composing
- ✓ The style does not matter to me – I just want to hear you play to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Drummers – you may submit a recording of you playing drum set!
- ✓ Mallet players – you should have a bell kit at home, but if not, submit a recording of you playing the piano.
- ✓ Your submissions should demonstrate good playing technique.
 - Good posture is a must
 - Please be seated in a chair with the music appropriately propped up or standing with the music at the correct level
 - Drums or drum pads not on a stand should be on a surface that promotes good posture, good grip, and good playing habits

Parent Tips:

- ✓ Please be sure your child is bringing their instrument home each day. Even though they are not required to practice every day the instrument should not be “living” at Holicong.
- ✓ Please help your child find a quiet place to practice. The area should be well-lit and have room for a chair and a music stand.
- ✓ Speaking of music stands, please consider buying one if you do not already own one. It is incredibly helpful and truly promotes good playing posture.
- ✓ Encourage your child to play/practice 3-4 times each week. While they only have one practice assessment due each week, the more they play = the better they get = the more fun they have! I am aware that this may not be possible every week. However, it is a good goal.
- ✓ Asking your child to play something for you is a great way to get them playing at home. Do not feel that you need to correct “right and wrong” – just listening to them is a bigger confidence booster than you would imagine.