



High School Band Grade Policy

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I am an important member of the Gahanna Bands. We give our best effort every day to prepare artistically moving and entertaining performances. I do my part and take responsibility for the group's success because my personal contribution has greater effects than I can see. I come to all rehearsals fully prepared and completely focused on performing well. I can depend on my band family, and they can depend on me for drive, commitment, communication, and a positive attitude. Together, we aspire to a higher standard. Together, we are:

The Pride of the Lions.

These words, composed by our band's student leaders in the autumn of 2012, define our mission and outline the keys to the consistent excellence of the Gahanna Bands. Our commitment to personal responsibility and fine musicianship has earned us respect throughout the state and the honor of making music with world-famous conductors and composers. The high school band grade policy complements our philosophy and rewards students who demonstrate responsibility and achievement. Each quarter, your grade will be comprised of rehearsal attendance (50%) and performance (50%).

Rehearsal attendance is essential to the success of our group. Just knowing your own part is not nearly enough: you must actively participate in rehearsal to make your part fit appropriately with the others, and to support the efforts of your fellow musicians. Compared to many other musical organizations in the area, our rehearsal and performance schedule is quite limited, so every minute counts. The band calendar is published far in advance, so please plan medical appointments and family trips with this calendar in mind.

- Attendance at every rehearsal and performance is expected.
- Excused absences will be granted for illness, religious observance, or a family death, wedding, or graduation.
- *Work is never an excused absence.*
- To be excused, please submit a signed, parent note before the absence. In cases of emergency, call the band office at 478-5519.

Students earn points for actively participating in each rehearsal and with all materials. Excused absences earn no credit. Unexcused absences (including unexcused absences from school) earn a deduction of that many points. The points are as follows:

1 point – regular rehearsal

4 points – evening rehearsal

10 points – marching band camp rehearsal

In the case of excused rehearsals, students can earn points through extra credit. Extra credit cannot be applied to unexcused absences.

The **performance** component of your grade will be earned mostly through live assessments (individual or group), but also through recorded performances or written work as appropriate. The number of assessments will vary from quarter to quarter.

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a lowering of your *overall* quarter grade and may result in your removal from band. The deductions for unexcused absences are as follows:

24% deduction for a concert or marching performance

36% deduction for a district or state adjudicated event

Being on time and in uniform is important so that we can properly warm up and make the best possible presentation to our audience. Tardiness to a warm-up or not being in the complete, proper uniform will result in your not being permitted to perform and a possible grade deduction.

A note about sports and school activities: conflicts will be resolved between the coach and Mr. Cebriak, but it is the student's responsibility to communicate an upcoming conflict to both Mr. Cebriak and the coach. *Club (non-GLHS) sports will not be excused.*

Attendance for **Memorial Day, July 4th**, and **Holiday Lights** activities is flexible due to the nature of holidays and family travels. Members who are in town will participate in rehearsals and performances as travel plans permit. Requests for excused absence from these events should be made to Mr. Cebriak in writing and in advance of the absence.

Extra credit can be earned through private lessons, "outside" musical performances, attendance at other concerts, solo and ensemble participation, pep band, and extra efforts which benefit the bands, such as ushering or assisting with 6th grade fitting nights.

With everyone's best efforts, we have a great year of music-making ahead of us!