



# High School Band Grade Policy 2019-20

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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.

The **performance** of each individual student is essential to the success of the group and is the basis of your grade each quarter. Performance will be measured mostly through live assessments (individual or group), but also through self-recordings or written work as appropriate. The number of assessments will vary each quarter. Extra credit (see below) will not be factored until the end of each quarter.

**Rehearsal attendance** is also important 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, submit a signed, parent note before the absence. In cases of emergency, call the band office at (614) 478-5519.

**Unexcused absences** will result in a lowering of your quarter grade and may result in school discipline and/or your removal from band. The grade deductions for unexcused absences are as follows:

- 5% deduction for a regular rehearsal
- 8% deduction for an evening rehearsal
- 10% deduction for a band camp day
- 24% deduction for a concert or marching performance
- 36% deduction for a district or state adjudicated event

**Frequent absences**, whether excused or unexcused, may result in your not being permitted to perform.

**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 may result in your not being permitted to perform and a possible grade deduction.

**On the day of concerts and adjudicated events, band members will dress up for school.** For gentlemen, this will include a dress shirt (tucked in), tie, and dress shoes. For ladies, outfits should be a step above “business casual”. Dresses and skirts are not required but are encouraged. Dress shoes are required.

**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.*

For marching band members, attendance at **Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>**, 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade fitting nights.

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