

**BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**  
**GRADING POLICY**  
**FOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

**Instructors: Mr. Marshall White, Mrs. Cindi Martin**

**WebPages:** <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bcchs/academics/depts/music/index.html>

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**60% Classroom Performance**

All students will be graded on attainment of the outcomes listed on the course syllabus page as per ensemble class. Throughout the course of daily instruction, students will be required to demonstrate and/or actively engage in:

- Appropriate posture when playing instrument
- Appropriate breathing techniques
- Appropriate listening skills when following directions from instructor
- Appropriate tone on instrument (refer to the Performance Rubric)
- Proper music reading skills
- Appropriate support and understanding when working with peers and in small groups
- Appropriate musicality skills (refer to Performance Rubric), i.e. – dynamics, accents, stylistic considerations

Students must always have their instrument and music for class. Board of Education guidelines on excused and unexcused absences will be strictly adhered. Violation of classroom rules will result in demerits. *Each demerit assigned will lower the student's grade by three percent.*

**35% Performances, Concerts, and Individual Performance Assessments**

Instrumental music students are required to perform in a number of daytime, evening, and/or weekend performances to meet course objectives and outcomes. In addition, students will be graded on their ability to perform selected materials taken from music played or assigned in class. At all public performances and/or adjudications, students will be required to adhere to the guidelines for concert attire and call times for the performance (refer to the page outlining "[Performance Grading Criteria](#)").

In regards to performances, instrumental music performances are covered by the same MCPS policy as class sessions. There are few reasons that can be considered valid for missing a required performance. A student's grade will be reduced by one full letter for not actively engaging in a mandatory event without proper notification. The instructor reserves all authority to grant or refuse an excuse for absence.

Family emergency, illness, or death in family will be excused. The student should bring a note signed by a parent or guardian explaining the emergency. This note is required as soon as possible after the absence. Remember that instrumental music is a curricular performance course and a performance is comparable to an exam; it demonstrates how well a student has achieved the outcomes of the course. In the case of an excused absence, a written report will be required as a substitute for the performance. (Please refer to the page "[Absence Policy](#)" in the handbook for more information).

Students are required to make up any class work missed due to special rehearsals or other Music Department activities. Such activities are designed to enhance the student's high school music experience and not to excuse them from schoolwork.

If questions arise about possible conflicts, please consult with the teacher and provide documentation as soon as such conflicts arise.

**5% Preparation of assignments**

Music is rehearsed on a daily basis. Students are responsible for adequately preparing all materials assigned in class. It is strongly encouraged that students practice at home.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CALENDAR 2011-2012

DATE	EVENT	TIME	CALL TIME	PLACE	COMMENTS
Sept. 2, 2011, Friday	Pep Band Performance	6:30p.m.	5:45p.m.	B-CC Stadium	Sym./Adv. Band only
Sept. 9, 2011, Friday	Pep Band Performance	6:30p.m.	5:45p.m.	B-CC Stadium	All Band students
Sept. 30, 2011, Friday	Pep Band Performance	6:30p.m.	5:45p.m.	B-CC Stadium	All Band students
Oct. 3, 2011, Monday	MCPS Honors Jazz Auditions	4 – 9p.m		Frost M. S.	Jazz only
Oct. 14, 2011, Friday	Pep Band Performance	6:30p.m.	5:45p.m.	B-CC Stadium	All Band students
Oct. 21, 2011, Friday	Pep Band Performance (Homecoming)	6:30p.m.	5:45p.m.	B-CC Stadium	All Band students
Nov. 8, 2011, Tue.	Jr. All-County band/orch aud.	6 – 10p.m.		TBA	Band Dir. Recommendation
Nov. 12, 2011, Sat.	Jr. All-State band/orch aud.	9 – 5p.m.		TBA	Band Dir. Recommendation
Nov. 15, 2011, Tue.	Sr. All-County band/orch aud.	6 – 10p.m.		TBA	Band Dir. Recommendation
Nov. 19, 2011, Sat.	Sr. All-State band/orch aud.	9 – 5p.m.		TBA	Band Dir. Recommendation
Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 2011	Fall Musical Production with Drama	7:30p.m.	7:00p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	Pit Orchestra volunteers
Dec. 10, 2011, Sat.	Mont. Co. Jazz Festival	TBA	TBA	Sherwood H. S.	Jazz only
Dec. 13, 2011, Tue.	Winter Concert – CB, SB, CO Ensembles	7:00p.m.	6:00p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	Conc & Sym Band, Conc Orcl
Dec. 14, 2011, Wed.	Westland Winter Concert - Jazz ONLY	7:00p.m.	6:30p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	Jazz ONLY
Dec. 15, 2011, Thu.	Winter Concert – SymOr/Wind Ens/Jazz	7:00p.m.	6:00p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	Sym Orch, Wind Ens., Jazz
Dec. 16, 2011, Fri.	In-School Holiday Concert	Morn. TBA	Morn. TBA	B-CC Auditorium	All instrumental ensembles
Feb. 4, 2012, Sat.	All-County Gala Performance	7p.m.		B-CC Auditorium	By audition only
Feb. 11, 2011, Sat. (Snow – Sat., 3/3)	Cabaret	7 – 11p.m.	6:00p.m.	B-CC Cafeteria	Jazz, Sym. Orch., opt. for Ban
Feb. 27, 2012, Mon.	Festival Rehearsal for Sym. Orch.	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	6:15p.m.	B-CC Band Room	Sym. Orch. only
Feb. 28, 2012, Tue.	Festival Rehearsal for Con/Adv Orch.	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	6:15p.m.	B-CC Band Room	Con/Adv Orch. only
Feb. 24 – 26, 2012	All-State Jr/Sr Band/Sr Orch	TBA	TBA	Baltimore, MD	By audition only
Mar. 5, 2012, Mon.	Festival Rehearsal for Wind Ensemble	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	6:15p.m.	B-CC Band Room	Wind Ensemble only
Mar. 7, 2012, Wed.	Festival Rehearsal for Sym. Band	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	6:15p.m.	B-CC Band Room	Sym. Band. only
Mar. 2, 2012, Fri.	County Ensemble Festival	6 – 10p.m.	TBA	Wooten H. S.	Not req., but recommended
Mar. 3, 2012, Sat.	County Solo Festival	9 – 5p.m.	TBA	Wooten H. S.	Not req., but recommended
Mar. 9 - 11, 2012	All-State Jr. Orch	TBA	TBA	TBA	By audition only
Mar. 13, 2012, Tue.	Mont. Co. Orchestra Festival	TBA	TBA	Walter Johnson HS	All Orchestras
Mar. 21, 2011, We	Mont. Co. Sym. Band/Wind Ens. Festival	TBA	TBA	B-CC HS	Wind Ensemble, Sym. Band
Mar. 29 – Apr. 1, 2012	Music Dept. Trip	TBA	TBA	TBA	All ensemble members welcon
April 24, 2012, Tue.	Mont. Co. Second Band Festival	TBA	TBA	TBA	Concert Band only
May 5, 2012, Sat.	State Solo/Ens. Fest, Strings	9 – 6p.m.	TBA	TBA	Sup. (1) req. at Co. Fest.
May 12, 2012, Sat.	State Solo/Ensemble Fest, Winds	9 – 6p.m.	TBA	TBA	Sup. (1) req. at Co. Fest.
May 1, 2012 Tue.	Spring Concert - CB, SB, CO Ensembles	7:00p.m.	6:00p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	Conc/Sym. Band, Conc Orch <sup>1</sup>
May 3, 2012 Thu.	Spring Concert – SymOr/Wind Ens/Jazz	7:00p.m.	6:00p.m.	B-CC Auditorium	SymOr, Wind Ens, Jazz Ens. <sup>2</sup>
June, 2012	Graduation	TBA	TBA	Constitution Hall, DC	Orch., Jazz only

This calendar is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Music Director will notify the class of any changes within a reasonable period of time. **All performances and evening rehearsals are required and considered part of the classroom grade.** Unexcused absences will result in a one-letter grade reduction. Excused absences will be dealt with on a case by case basis and will require make-up work at the discretion of the music director.

## **Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Music Department**

### **Goals of Instrumental Ensembles**

1. To provide a safe environment in which students can learn about music through performance
2. To help develop creativity, self discipline, character, and control.
3. To help students relate music to the world around them.
4. To help students develop the desire to search for knowledge and to appreciate music after their formal education has been completed.
5. To give fundamental understandings and develop advanced skills to those desirous of pursuing a musical career.

### **Instrumental Ensemble Expectations**

1. Students will enter the room and have all materials ready within three minutes of the late bell.
2. Keep cell phones, ipods, or other electronic devices off and out of sight, unless the teacher indicates that it is appropriate for use in the lesson.
3. Students will treat each other, school material/instruments, and all teachers with RESPECT! Respect is the key to success in this class.
4. Absolutely no food or drinks in the classroom. Bottled water is acceptable.
5. Keep hands off any instruments and/or equipment that are not yours.
6. Students will put all materials away before exiting the room. Please keep this room clean for all classes.
7. Students will ask for permission to leave the room/lavatory.
8. Always put forth your best effort and be attentive and focused throughout the entire class.
9. Stay in the classroom until the bell rings.

### **Method Books**

Some ensembles may receive a method book that will be used frequently during rehearsals. These books will be given to each member of the ensemble. All method books must be returned at the end of the year. Any student that does not return the book will be charged a replacement fee. The fee ranges between \$7.00 and \$10.00 per book.

**ABSENCE POLICY**  
**For all Required Concerts/Performances/Rehearsals**

There are very few absences which are considered valid reasons for missing any required performances. Your grade will be lowered one letter grade for not participating in a mandatory event without an excused absence. If the absence IS excused, then the student will be required to make-up the activity, just as a student who misses a test would need to make-up the test. Since it is not possible to recreate the performance, the make-up activity will be for the student to record one of the following options onto a CD or mp3 file format:

- solo work appropriate to student's technical abilities (selection may be chosen by student, but must be approved by music director)
- etude or study appropriate to student's technical abilities (selection may be chosen by student, but must be approved by music director)
- excerpt from band/orchestra music that demonstrates student's mastery of performance objectives (to be chosen by music director)

Once the performance selection has been chosen and approved, it is the student's responsibility to record the selection either at school or at home onto a CD or mp3 format. Once the recording is complete, along with handing in the CD or emailing the mp3 file, the student must also complete a Rubric for Performance Assessment sheet. This sheet requires the student to assess their own performance based on a standard set of requirements. The teacher will then moderate the student's marks. The student's make-up grade of the performance will be derived from this Rubric for Performance Assessment sheet and assigned to the performance that was missed due to an excused absence.

Excused absences may include a student illness, death in the immediate family, or other emergencies that will be discussed on an individual basis. Montgomery County attendance policy states that an excused note must be turned in no later than three days after the absence. For night school and athletic event conflicts, the music director must be consulted prior to the concert. In most cases, the performance program can be rearranged or make-up classes can be worked out to satisfy all parties.

Performances that occur outside of the regular school day are an extension of all performing ensembles. These performances are co-curricular activities, not extra-curricular. This means that performances are part of the student's grade for the class.

All make-up assignments for a missed performance must be completed and handed in by within one week of the missed performance. Make-ups turned in after the deadline will only receive up to 50%.

Unexcused absences may include, but are not limited to, babysitting, lack of transportation, sports practices, and work related employment. Unexcused absences may be made up, but will only receive a maximum of 50%.

If you have questions concerning the validity of any situation, please consult the music director as soon as possible.

## DRESS CODE FOR PERFORMANCES

**Girls** will be required to purchase a long black dress from the BCC website link <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/music/concertdress.aspx>. The cost is approximately \$60.00. This is a one-time purchase that can be used throughout high school for all performances. Black shoes and dark or clear stockings are the responsibility of each individual student.

**Guys** will be required to purchase a tuxedo outfit which will include a notch lapel coat, pleated tux pants, wing tux shirt, and a cummerbund and bow tie. The information is located from the BCC website link <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/music/concertdress.aspx>. The cost for these items is approximately \$100.00. Black shoes (no tennis shoes) and black socks are the responsibility of each individual student.

### **Pep Band Information**

Pep Band will involve all students in the Concert Band, Advanced Band, and Symphonic Band. Everyone is required to attend all performances which receive a performance grade. The Pep Band performs only at the varsity home football games. Students need to arrive at least 45 minutes before the game in order to get organized and ready to play the National Anthem. All students are required to stay for the entire game.

Students who are on the varsity football squad, varsity cheerleaders, or pom poms are excused from playing in the Pep Band. Others who have religious obligations will also be excused with a note from a parent.

Students in the Pep Band will wear a Pep Band T-Shirt and jeans for the performances. A T-Shirt can be purchased to keep or it must be returned at the end of the season. A T-Shirt will cost \$15.00 for those that want to keep it. Flip folders and lyres will need to be returned at the end of the season. *Students will be charged a \$7.00 replacement fee for each item that is not returned.*

The Pep Band performance is treated the same as the winter or spring concert. Failure to attend will result in the lowering of the grade. Please refer to the absence policy page for missed performances and make up requirements.

### **Pep Band Performance Dates 2010-11**

**Call time is 5:45p.m. End time is approximately 8:45p.m.**

Sept. 3

Sept. 16

Oct. 1 - Homecoming

Oct. 15

Nov. 5

## **BCC Instrumental Music Ensembles Reassessment Policy**

Reassessment is a functional part of daily rehearsals. When we rehearse sections and parts, we are reassessing the main components of a quality music ensemble.

Individual playing exams in Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Orchestra are not that frequent as we strive as a group to play together and perform regularly.

When an individual playing exam is required, advance notice will be given prior to the date of performance. If a student is absent when they are required to play the exam, upon return, the student must contact the instructor and determine a date for the make up exam.

If a student would like an additional opportunity for reassessment on that individual playing exam, s/he must meet with the instructor at least once to review the material for guidance and direction. This review meeting must be within one week of the initial assessment date. After this meeting, a mutual time may be set between the student and instructor for reassessment.

### **Performance Grading Criteria**

Listed below is a criterion by which students will receive credit for a performance. If all the criteria are met, in addition to the individual's playing standard, students will receive the maximum credit for each performance. Performances include, but are not limited to, evening concerts, pep band performances, in school concerts, and community performances.

#### **100% - Maximum grade**

- Punctual for call time
- Wears proper attire
- Has necessary materials

#### **20% - Reduction in grade**

- Student attire does not meet specified requirements for performance

#### **10% - Reduction in grade**

- Student is late to specified call time

#### **10% - Reduction in grade**

- Student is missing necessary materials for the specified performance

# RUBRIC FOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICAL EXCERPT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Tone Quality \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 - Demonstrates excellent characteristic sound in all registers/dynamics
- 4 - Good characteristic timbre, good control throughout most ranges
- 3 - Average control of tone throughout ranges/dynamics
- 2 - Inconsistent control of tone throughout most ranges/dynamics
- 1 - Tone does not adhere to characteristic timbre, control severely limited

## Note Accuracy and Intonation \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 - Virtually note perfect, excellent tuning throughout all ranges
- 4 - Good performance with minimal flaws, good tuning throughout
- 3 - Average performance with some flaws, adequate tuning
- 2 - Recognizable, but technically flawed, inconsistent tuning
- 1 - Unrecognizable, lack of preparation, no attempt made at tuning

## Rhythmic Accuracy \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 - Demonstrates correct rhythms and steady pulse throughout
- 4 - Minimal rhythmic errors with steady pulse
- 3 - Some rhythmic and/or pulse errors
- 2 - Several rhythmic and/or pulse errors
- 1 - Unsteady pulse, no understanding of correct rhythm

## Articulation (tonguing, slurring, or use of bow) \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 - Demonstrates excellent use of articulation throughout
- 4 - Good overall use of articulation, some inconsistency
- 3 - Average use of articulation, not enough attention to detail
- 2 - Some attempt made at articulation, but very inconsistent
- 1 - Poor attempt made toward accurate articulation

## Expressive Quality, Musicality, Interpretation \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 - Excellent phrasing, musical line, and nuance; excellent fluency
- 4 - Good overall phrasing and awareness of musical line, nuance
- 3 - Average phrasing, lacks conviction of musical line, nuance
- 2 - Some attempt made at phrasing, but minimal at best
- 1 - Poor attempt made toward phrasing or musical line

General Comments \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (out of 25) \_\_\_\_\_