

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE GRADING POLICY

“It is the philosophy of the Music Department that grades should reflect the effort, ability, attitude and visible dedication that each student demonstrates on a consistent daily basis in a particular ensemble.”

A positive attitude is the underlying ingredient *necessary* to the success of each ensemble and in turn each member of that ensemble. In reading the New Trier High School Music Department Grading Policy, one finds principles that serve as benchmarks for a positive attitude. One must leave one’s “ego at the door and become a team player” approaching “all new music” and ideas “with an open mind, seeing each as an opportunity to learn.” An individual “acts as a professional when rehearsing and performing, and does not thrive on complaining or finding fault with the direction or leadership of the ensemble, or the efforts of its members,” but rather “employs creative thinking skills to solve problems or voice concerns” with respect and care. We must work together to achieve success together, and what better way is there than through music? In a very real way this process of music making is a metaphor for making our way through life with our fellows.

The jazz ensemble grading policy is based on a 100-point system that includes the following components **(Please note that your grade is cumulative over the semester and the final semester grade represents calculations based on the entire semester):**

I. Daily Attendance: Total of 50 points per semester

Absences and tardiness disrupt the learning environment. Students need regular day-to-day attendance and must be punctual to maintain a sense of continuity in their program. Even one absence can affect the success and educational outcome for the individual and the entire class on that day. **Music rehearsals are particularly difficult to make-up since the process is so experiential.** It is impossible to re-create what the other students experienced the preceding day.

0 absences = 50 points
1 absence = 47 points
2 absences = 44 points
3 absences = 41 points
4 absences = 38 points
5 absences = 35 points
6 absences = 32 points
7 absences = 29 points
8 absences = 26 points

9 absences = 23 points
10 absences = 20 points
11 absences = 17 points
12 absences = 14 points
13 absences = 11 points
14 absences = 0 points
15 absences = 0 points

Points missed for *unexcused absences* **cannot** be made up. Three *unexcused tardies* count as **ONE unexcused absence** after which every additional unexcused tardy counts as an unexcused absence!

Points missed for *excused absences* can be made up by completing one or more of the following options. The number of make-up points will be commensurate with the time needed to complete the make-up work, as determined by the director.

- a 30 minute recording (SmartMusic, CD, or tape) of you practicing your jazz band music
- a one-page single-spaced type-written report on a jazz icon whose music we have studied
- a signed program from a concert you attended that either involves the instrument you play or features a jazz ensemble
- a signed program of a concert you performed in, excepting those scheduled or performed by the band class for which you are enrolled
- there are other creative possibilities for which you must receive director preapproval

If a student’s excused absence is because of involvement in another music event during that excused absence, director approval will exonerate the student from having to make up the points.

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE GRADING POLICY

II. Assessments: Total of 50 points per semester

The number of assessments will vary each semester. Each assessment will receive points for the quality of work. Assessments will be averaged for the entire semester and given a final number (0-50) for the “Assessments” portion of the grade. In some cases, assessments can be redone or improved upon. The responsibility of making up assessments is that of the student.

Audio recordings may be required for playing tests and auditions. SmartMusic is the preferred method of recording and subsequent submission for each playing assignment. Since many of you will already have SmartMusic subscriptions, this will be relatively simple. For those of you without a SmartMusic subscription, I will leave it up to you to figure out a method for recording yourself. Please see me if you need help with this. There will also be instances where I will ask you to play an “in-person” assessment. Generally, students will be given ample time to prepare for these assessments.

III. Concert Performance

Students are expected to be at concert performances. For each absence from a concert performance, the final semester grade will be reduced by one letter (i.e. 10 point deduction from your attendance portion of the semester grade). Please refer to the Music Department policies for clarification.

...if the absence is *excused*, points to reverse this reduction may be earned by completing make-up work assigned by the director.

...if the absence is *unexcused*, the grade reduction may not be reversed.

IV. Attitude/Conduct/Professionalism:

You are expected to be professional and respectful at all times and to be accountable for your actions. For examples, please refer to the Music Department policies. To that end, if the student’s attitude, conduct and professionalism are not appropriate, the following actions will be taken:

Incident 1 - Warning.

Incident 2 - Conference with director.

Incident 3 - Conference with director and parents.

Incident 4 - Student must drop class. (The Music Department Chair and a representative from the Administrative Team can arbitrate an appeal process).

V. Grading Scale:

90-100	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
0-59	= F