

Academy of Charter Schools

# Elementary Band and Orchestra Classes

## Parent Guide

Mr. Kemp, Band Director  
Mrs. Delevoryas, Orchestra Director  
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### Class Expectations:

All general school rules apply in this class.

*Respect:* I will respect each one of you and expect the same in return. Music is a subject based on cooperation, and harassment of any kind, by any person, will not be tolerated.

*Food:* Food will not be allowed in the band room at any time. Not only does food damage instruments, but also it is impossible to play an instrument correctly while eating candy, gum, or any other food.

*Hats:* Students will not be allowed to wear hats inside the band room, as per the school handbook dress code. They can be distracting to others, and often prevent the amount of eye contact required to be successful in music.

*Mobile Phones and MP3 Players:* These are not allowed in the school, and students with these items will be asked to turn them off and put them away during class.

### Grade Weights:

Concerts	25% of Final Grade	<u>Letter Grade Scale:</u>
Practice Records	25% of Final Grade	A = 90%-100%
Daily Participation	25% of Final Grade	B = 80%-89%
Playing Tests	15% of Final Grade	C = 70%-79%
Study Guides	10% of Final Grade	D = 60%-69%
		F = 59% And Below

**Important: The highest grade you can get without practicing is a 75%!**

### Supplies:

- ✚ Music Folder
- ✚ Pencil - Do not bring pens to class!
- ✚ You will be assigned a school lock for your instrument locker. It must be locked at all times when you are not in class. Unfortunately, we will not have enough lockers for 4<sup>th</sup> grades to use one.

## Assignment Descriptions and the Colorado Model Content Standards

Several years ago the United States Department of Education adopted a series of standards to be achieved by students in each of the academic subjects. Music was included in these, and shortly after that the state of Colorado also adopted standards that are in line with those on the national level. My goal is to help students achieve these standards in an engaging, exciting, and challenging way. The standards are as follows:

1. Students sing or play on instruments a varied repertoire of music, alone or with others.
2. Students will read and notate music.
3. Students will create music.
4. Students will listen to, analyze, evaluate, and describe music.
5. Students will relate music to various historical and cultural traditions.

The excitement of learning to play an instrument will always be our main goal, but each of the following assignments will help us reach a deeper understanding of music as well as meeting the standards. Although it may seem like we have a lot to accomplish each quarter, it really isn't as much as it seems and each student should be able to get an "A" in the class.

Performances: As you know, music is a performance-based class... Everything we do is aimed at working together to make musical moments. If one person misses a performance it hurts the whole group in many ways. The sound will be thin, the absence of a part may make some students confused about where they fit in, and the missing student conveys the message that music, and the group, is not important. We need everybody! For grading purposes, students who come to perform at concerts receive full credit; while absent students receive no points at all. There are exceptions for family emergencies, serious illness, weddings (of which you are a participant, not just a guest), and other unavoidable conflicts. In each case, I will need to be notified at least one week before the performance so that adjustments can be made. Students with approved absences will have to complete an alternative assignment to make up the missing points. Unapproved absences will result in a permanent loss of the concert grade.

### Concert Dates:

**Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 15th 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**Spring Concert: Thursday, May 20th, 2010 at 7:00 PM**

Practice Records: Daily practice is the most important thing students can do to succeed! Learning to play an instrument and music is impossible without working at home. To reflect that, practicing is considered to be the same "homework" as a student would receive in any other class, and will be graded each week. In general, it should take less time to fulfill practice requirements each night than it does to do assignments for other classes, and the results will

be quickly noticed! I would prefer that students find some small amount of time to play each night, but if that is a problem they will still receive full credit providing that they fulfill the total amount required for the week on other nights.

- ✚ For the sake of convenience, I will be sending these home each week with your child's Monday Folder. Please send last week's completed practice record back with their folder the next day so that I can grade it. 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders will be required to practice 75 minutes per week.

Participation: Music making requires the cooperation of many players. For our purposes, the daily participation grade will apply to whether or not a student has all of the materials in class required for them to make music. These include a pencil and music, as well as the student's instrument and all of the materials that it requires, such as reeds, mouthpiece, music, valve oil, etc... Points will only be awarded to students who come to class prepared. Exceptions will be made if a student's instrument is being repaired for a reasonable amount of time, although I will need a parent note to verify this. (Usually no longer than one week)

Playing Tests: Students will be required to play assigned selections of music and will be graded on these performances. Each student will play in front of the class, which will be positive and respectful to them. I will evaluate each student using the same standards, and provide them with written feedback and advice. Generally, I will only grant students a few attempts before calling upon another individual. This can easily be avoided by being prepared.... Students will always know what they will be tested over at least a week before the test.

No-Parking Grade: All students will be required to keep their instruments in an assigned instrument storage locker in the band room during the school day. Instruments need to be dropped off in the morning before school starts, and it will not be acceptable for students to keep their instruments in any other locker or classroom. Practice records will be required for each week, and students will be responsible for taking their instrument home for this purpose.

**Although any day will work for practice time, I will be checking the instrument storage lockers at 4:00 PM every Friday. An empty locker will earn a 100% for the Study Guide category, but a locker that still has an instrument in it will earn a 0% for that week's grade. Students who do not take their instruments home on Friday will find a "Parking Ticket" on the door on the following class day.**

I realize that there are a few students that have a different instrument for home and for school. If this is the case, a parent note will suffice for an exception. Percussionists will be graded on the presence of their sticks and other materials. Of course, excused absences will also be taken into account.

## Discipline Ladder Clause

Participating in the band program at The Academy is a privilege. Our success as an ensemble is dependent on our ability to work together towards a common goal, and this requires a safe and comfortable environment for all of our members. Anyone who causes disruptions in class or displays a negative attitude through insults or defiance is effectively creating speed bumps for our success. **Therefore, any person that reaches five discipline referrals and/or a “Strike” and suspension for behavior in band will be required to have a meeting with his/her parents, Mr. Kemp, and the assistant secondary director to review whether they should be allowed to return to band.** This policy is in place to protect our common goal of building the sense of teamwork required for a successful ensemble.

- ✓ Parents: please sign and return the following form with your child, which indicates that you have read and understand these policies. This will be your child’s first grade! Please keep the first four pages of this packet for your reference copy.

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### Band Policies Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that I have  
read and  
(Parent name, printed)  
understand the expectations and grading policy for band classes at The  
Academy.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail

Address: \_\_\_\_\_