

**2018-2019 CHESAPEAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Western Branch Middle School**

**Orchestra Handbook - Grading Guidelines for Middle School Orchestra**

**Mrs. Alice R. Glasco, room 900**  
**31 years of teaching music in Chesapeake Public Schools**  
**James Madison University BMUED**

Grades are used to give the student and his/her parents an indication of progress made during a grading period. Instrumental music students perform in many categories. Each grade category is given a specific percentage of the overall grade for the grading period. All grades for a single category will be averaged to determine the grade for that category. Each student's grade is determined through earning points in four areas of evaluation:

<b>Performances /Playing Tests</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Quizzes (Written/ Playing)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Participation/Inspection</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Practice Records/Homework</b>	<b>10%</b>

**PERFORMANCE (40%)** - Periodic evaluations of each student's progress will be given in the form of **playing tests**. Criteria for grading will be announced prior to each exam. Some common areas for evaluation include: a proper and characteristic tone, correct articulation (style and technique), proper posture, rhythmic accuracy, correct dynamics, note accuracy, etc. Mandatory concert performances receive multiple performance grades. A policy regarding make-up work will apply.

**Concert Attire:** 6<sup>th</sup> +7<sup>th</sup> grade: White top (not sleeveless)/ Black pants or long skirt (below the knee when seated)  
8<sup>th</sup> grade: White long-sleeve shirt / Black pants or long skirt (below the knee when seated)  
Black shoes (no flip-flops)

**QUIZZES (Written/Playing) (30%)** - During the course of the nine weeks, students will be required to learn musical concepts, terms, symbols, rhythms, and compositions. Periodic written assignments such as Worksheets, Print Music Compositions, Composer/Style assignments/ Power point assignments and check-up quizzes will be given to determine student's mastery of the material covered. Written assignments and quizzes are given to monitor the progress of learning, and may be announced or unannounced.

**DAILY PARTICIPATION/ INSTRUMENT INSPECTION (20%)** - Participation by each student, with appropriate behavior in daily music class, is a major factor in the success of any musical organization. With this in mind, student musicians are required to have their instrument (in good working order), a music folder with issued music, and a **PENCIL** in order to receive full credit for each music class. Instruments and musical supplies will be inspected at least once during each grading period. Musical instruments require accessories to maintain their cleanliness and working condition.

- **Violin and Viola-** Cloth, rosin, and shoulder rest (Suggested -extra set of strings)
- **Cello and Bass-** Cloth and rosin (Suggested –rock stop and extra cello strings)
- Students **MUST** have a **NAME TAG** on their instrument case.

**PRACTICE RECORDS (10%)** - (Homework) Instrumental music students are expected to practice at home on a daily basis. Practice sheets are used to give credit for homework. At-home practice is essential to have the most improvement during the year. Practice helps you to develop the fine motor skills (fingers, arms, etc.) that are necessary for correct performance of any instrument. Please follow these guidelines to receive proper credit:

Grades will be earned as follows:

A [100]five or more days per week (100 min)	*BASSISTS	A [100] = three or more days (60 min)
B [90]four days per week (80 min)		B [90] = two or more days (40 min)
C [80]three days per week (60 min)		C [80] = one day (20 min)
D+ [70]two days per week (40 min.)		D [70] = (10 min)
D [60]zero or one day per week (20 min.)		E [0] = no sheet turned in
E [0]no practice sheet turned in for the week		

Students may use the seventh week to either substitute for a low practice grade or earn extra credit points. Practice will count 10% of the nine weeks grade. Practice records are due on the first day that the student is in school each week. Late practice records will have a 10% grade deduction for each day that it is late.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Practice records without a Parent Signature will not be accepted until it is signed by the parent.
- Students who have an excused absence from school can turn in their practice record on the day they return to school without receiving a grade deduction. If the practice record is not turned in on that day, it will be considered late and will receive a grade deduction.
- Points will be deducted from the practice grade each day that a student leaves his/her instrument at the school overnight. Special arrangements can be made for students who use school owned instruments.  
# Please encourage your child to set up a daily practice schedule. You can help your child by supervising his/her practice time. Ask questions about what piece they are practicing or what skill they are trying to learn. Also make sure your child has necessary supplies for practice such as a music stand, a metronome, and the class music.

Practice is the **key to good musicianship!**

- **School-owned instruments** – Chesapeake Public Schools provides an instrument for cellists and bassists to use during class at WBMS, however, the student and parents are responsible for the care, safety, and transportation of the instrument. Students will be issued a CPS instrument and must complete and return a Check-Out Card.
- Cellists must rent or purchase a cello to be kept at home for nightly practice.
- Bassists should bring the instrument home overnight sometime during each nine weeks to practice.

The success of any music program can be measured by the progress made by each individual musician. Self-control, courtesy, and dedication are essential from each participating student in order for the group to attain a level of performance that will be satisfactory for all. There are, of course, certain behaviors that should be avoided in order to earn participation points such as:

- Talking or otherwise disturbing rehearsals or tuning sessions
- Forgetting your instrument, music or pencil
- Letting someone else play/use your instrument

## CONCERT and DRESS REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

A very important aspect of any music program is concert performance participation. The student's faithful participation in the group, as well as his/her growth as young musicians, is realized in a successful concert performance. The overall success of the organization relies on the respective and collective efforts of each individual. Therefore:

1. **Participation in concert performances is mandatory.** Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's nine weeks grade being lowered. All absences will be considered unexcused (unforeseen emergencies excepted) unless **PRIOR written notice** is submitted and approved (at least one day before the performance.) *In the event of a student's illness or a death in the family, an excused note written by the parent must be presented to Mrs. Glasco at the next class meeting that the child attends. Students will be expected to make up assignments within five days of the concert/dress rehearsal absence.*
2. Students must be on time for all performances.
3. Students are responsible for bringing all needed **music and equipment** to every concert. (Basses and cellos-stools/boards etc)
4. Students must remain seated with their class until each group has performed. Students cannot leave during the performance.
5. All students are expected to demonstrate proper concert etiquette which includes the following:
  - No talking, yelling, whistling, or changing seats during a performance.
  - Applaud only at the end of a selection. If it has several movements, clap only at the end of the piece.
  - No cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed to be used during rehearsals or concerts.
6. Students are required to adhere to the concert dress code determined by the school.

**Attendance Policy**-Students will be required to adhere to the Chesapeake Public Schools attendance policy. Please refer to the Western Branch Middle School Student Handbook.

**Code of Academic Integrity**-Students will be required to adhere to the Code of Academic Integrity which is referenced in the Western Branch Middle School Student Handbook. (Honor Code)

**Chesapeake Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy**-Students will be required to adhere to the Chesapeake Public Schools Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy. Please refer to the CPS Student Conduct Policy Guidelines for Parents and Students issued on the first day of school.

**\*\*\*FINGERNAILS:** In order to demonstrate proper playing technique, fingernails need to be kept at a length that allows the student to press down on the strings with the fingertip. Students will be asked to trim nails that are too long to play the instrument correctly.  
**MUSIC:** Students will be provided with a textbook and sheet music, but lost or damaged items must be replaced by the student.  
**SEATING:** Students will be seated based on performance grades, proper playing position, practice records, and leadership. Seating will rotate periodically.

**INSURANCE:** Please check instrument coverage on your homeowner/rental insurance. Do not leave your personal instrument in the lockers, hallways, classrooms, or anywhere in the building overnight.

**\*\*Points will be deducted each day that a student leaves his/her instrument at the school overnight.**

**SYNERGY:** Please refer to SYNERGY for grades, calendar dates, and class information. This Syllabus, all important forms, practice record sheets, newsletters and notices will be posted on the course page.

**<https://synergy.cpschools.com>**

**Cell Phone Policy:** While on school property, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., use of any portable communication or electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, mp3 players, cameras, and i-pods are subject to the following restrictions:

- Cellular telephones, other portable telecommunication devices, or electronic devices must be turned off when students enter the school building and must remain off during the school day unless the student is participating in an educational activity under the supervision of the teacher. These devices must be secured in lockers when not being used in a supervised activity.
- Electronic devices may never be used in hallways, restrooms, locker rooms, or during testing.
- Electronic device usage in classrooms is at the discretion of the teacher. Students using devices without permission of the teacher may face disciplinary action.
- Students are required to have a signed permission form with the make, model, and serial number of each device.

*Chesapeake Public Schools assumes no responsibility in any circumstance for loss, destruction, damage, theft, or charges made on monthly statements for a cellular telephone, portable telecommunication device, or electronic device. Students will be responsible for locating such lost/stolen items.*

The music program in the Chesapeake schools has been successful for many years. A combination of excellent students, first class facilities and equipment, professionally trained and dedicated teachers, supportive administration and community, and parental involvement have made this success possible. With your help, this success will continue.

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer some of your time, skills, or knowledge to the Western Branch Orchestra Parent Association. Founded in 1989, it is a Parent/Community Support Group for Orchestra students in the Western Branch Schools.

- ♪ Western Branch High School - Martin Glasco
- ♪ Western Branch Middle School - Alice Glasco
- ♪ Jolliff Middle School - Leah Rosenberg
- ♪ Western Branch Intermediate School 5<sup>th</sup> grade Strings – Sandra Crocker
- ♪ EW Chittum and Southwestern Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade Strings - Monica Smith

WBOPA sponsors two Plant Fundraisers each year. Fall/October (Pansy) and Spring/ May (Assorted Annuals)

**[www.westernbranchorchestra.com](http://www.westernbranchorchestra.com)**

**REMINDE:** To text: Enter this number 81010 Text this message @wbmsor

To email: [wbmsor@mail.remind.com](mailto:wbmsor@mail.remind.com)

**Thank you** for your support!

**Alice Glasco** WBMS (757) 638-7920  
(Planning/ Meeting Time – 9am-9:45am)

[Alice.Glasco@cpschools.com](mailto:Alice.Glasco@cpschools.com)

The Chesapeake Public School System is an equal educational opportunity school system. The School Board of the City of Chesapeake also adheres to the principles of equal opportunity in employment and, therefore prohibits discrimination in terms and conditions of employment on the basis of race, sex, national origin, color, religion, age, or disability.

Western Branch Middle School  
Orchestra Handbook Agreement Form 2018-2019  
Mrs. Alice Glasco, Room 900

Please return this sheet to Mrs. Glasco by Tuesday, September 11

\*Please **print** the student's first and last name as you would like it to appear in the concert program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the instrument played last year. (5<sup>th</sup> grade for 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

Violin Viola Cello Bass

\*My child is interested in switching to the \_\_\_\_\_ (See form)

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Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Home Phone: (757) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent(s) or Guardian(s) name and phone number:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Best contact number

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Best contact number

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Parent/Guardian: We have read the Western Branch Middle School Orchestra Handbook and agree to abide by the policies contained therein.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like a printed copy of the  
WBMS Orchestra Handbook.

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