

**To:** Zero Bell Music Students and Parents

**From:** Dr. Thomas Whitley, Principal

David Grady, Assistant Principal

Martin Glasco, Fine Arts Department Head

Jason Taylor, Band Director

## **Zero Bell Attendance Policy Reminders 2016-17**

**Overview:** Participation in the Zero bell musical ensembles require each member to be present more than any other subject at WBHS. Students who are missing or tardy detract from the ability of the group to make progress. It is important that each member of the Zero bell ensemble realize that their participation is needed every class.

Zero bell Band/Orchestra is a graded curricular class just like any other class at WBHS. Students are expected to attend all Zero Bell classes on time. Attendance will be taken at 7:30am each day and students who are absent or tardy will be dealt with in correlation with the Chesapeake City Schools Attendance Policy. Listed below are some reminders:

- Students are **NOT** permitted to miss Zero bell to make up work or receive help in other classes unless arrangements involving both teachers are made in advance. Make up work and help sessions should be arranged on Friday mornings or at the Make-Up Center on Thursday afternoons. ***NO WBHS TEACHER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE A STUDENT MISS A CLASS TO MAKE UP WORK FOR ANOTHER CLASS.***
- Students who arrive **30** minutes late to Zero bell will be considered absent.
- Excused absences are defined in the WBHS Student Handbook as: “Sickness of a student, medical appointments, severe illness or death in the family, exposure to contagious disease, religious holidays, court appearance if subpoenaed, and inclement weather will be considered the only legitimate excuses for absence or tardiness”
- Unexcused absences include: Stayed up late the night before, babysitting other siblings, no ride to school, alarm clock malfunctions, extra help in other subjects, make up work in other subjects, undefined personal emergencies.
- Students who are absent in Zero bell, but present in first bell, will be referred to the appropriate WBHS Administrator for “skipping” class and will receive disciplinary action.
- Students who fail Zero bell as a result of attendance issues may not be eligible to participate in Zero bell for any subsequent years.
- As a reminder, any students who is absent (excused or unexcused) over 18 days for the entire school year (absences do NOT reset at the turn of the semester) will automatically fail the course.

WBHS is VERY proud of the advanced work and dedication the Zero bell music students have always demonstrated. Participation in these prestigious ensembles has been earned through hard work. It is important that the ensemble’s achievements are not affected by tardiness and poor attendance. Thank you for your time and dedication.