

# MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

## Performance Descriptors for Student Evaluation and Grading

### E

#### Exceeds District Standards:

- This is the student who demonstrates independence in application of musical concepts and skills. Performance is technically and stylistically accurate, as well as artistically expressive. The student demonstrates leadership in playing skills and performance. This student needs little guidance in applying previously learned skills to new musical applications. **The Student averages 92% or above on playing evaluations. The “E” student consistently and independently:**

#### Elements

- Demonstrates understanding of correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Demonstrate understanding of meter, note values, time signature, and pulse
- Demonstrates understanding of correct bowings, stickings, and articulation markings
- Demonstrates ability to identify melody, harmony, and texture

#### Technique

- Applies correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Understands and performs with proper intonation
- Demonstrates proper playing position and bow hand position
- Performs music with correct rhythms at the proper tempo
- Performs with a pleasing tone quality characteristic of the instrument
- Performs correct bowings and articulation markings
- Tunes instrument with a minimum of teacher guidance

#### Musicianship

- Utilizes appropriate dynamics and phrasing
- Demonstrates expressive use of vibrato as appropriate for each instrument
- Demonstrates appropriate application of musical styles
- Balances and blends with the section and ensemble
- Shows playing skills which reflect leadership and command of the instrument
- Demonstrates understanding of the historical and cultural context of music being performed

# M

## **Meets District Standards:**

This is the student who recognizes and demonstrates understanding of musical and technical concepts presented in the music. The student is making steady progress toward preparing music and assignments. Playing skills show accurate and fluent technique. Stylistic and artistic growth is emerging. **The student averages 62% - 91% or above on playing evaluations. The “M” student usually and with some guidance:**

## **Elements**

- Demonstrates understanding of correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Demonstrate understanding of meter, note values, time signature, and pulse
- Demonstrates understanding of correct bowings, stickings, and articulation markings
- Demonstrates ability to identify melody, harmony, and texture

## **Technique**

- Applies correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Understands and performs with proper intonation
- Demonstrates proper playing position and bow hand position
- Performs music with correct rhythms at the proper tempo
- Performs with a pleasing tone quality characteristic of the instrument
- Performs correct bowings and articulation markings
- Tunes instrument with a minimum of teacher guidance

## **Musicianship**

- Utilizes appropriate dynamics and phrasing
- Works to develop expressive use of vibrato as appropriate for each instrument
- Works to improve appropriate application of musical styles
- Balances and blends with the section and ensemble
- Demonstrates improved technical skills but is not artistically advanced
- Recognizes historical and cultural context of music being performed

# N

## **Does Not Meet District Standards:**

This is the student who is having difficulty with basic technical skills and associated musicianship. Performance lacks technical accuracy and does not reflect understanding of notation and musical concepts. This student does not apply previously learned skills, even with much teacher assistance and repetition. Often, the student does not demonstrate sufficient home practice necessary for measurable progress. **The student averages 62% or below on playing evaluations. The “N” student:**

### **Elements**

- Demonstrates limited understanding of correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Demonstrates limited understanding of meter, note values, time signature, and pulse
- Demonstrates limited understanding of correct bowings, stickings, and articulation markings
- Demonstrates limited ability to identify melody, harmony, and texture

### **Technique**

- Has difficulty applying correct note names, key signatures, and fingerings
- Does not perform with proper intonation
- Does not demonstrate proper playing position and bow hand position
- Has difficulty performing music with correct rhythms and does not maintain steady tempo
- Performs with poor, uncharacteristic tone quality
- Has difficulty performing correct bowings and articulations

### **Musicianship**

- Has difficulty performing appropriate dynamics and phrasing
- Does not demonstrate expressive use of vibrato as appropriate for each instrument
- Does not demonstrate appropriate application of musical styles
- Has difficulty balancing and blending with the section and ensemble
- Has difficulty remembering fundamental playing skills

## **Work Completion Grade 1-4**

Instrumental music students will be awarded a work completion grade based on the following:

- Attendance at technique classes, rehearsals, and performances
- Completion of class assignments
- Preparation of music

## **Learning Behavior 1-4**

Instrumental music students will be awarded a learning grade based on the following criteria:

- Rehearsal etiquette
  - 1) Lending full concentration to the music being rehearsed
  - 2) Playing instrument only when directed
  - 3) Talking only when director has indicated a break and is not rehearsing the ensemble
  - 4) Sitting in correct playing position when playing or resting in the middle of a piece
  - 5) Having instrument ready to play before an entrance
  - 6) Stopping immediately when director indicates a “cut-off”
  - 7) Respecting other students by keeping sticks, hands, feet, etc. to self.
  - 8) Raising hand to ask questions that directly relate to the music being rehearsed
  - 9) Asking non-music related questions before or after rehearsal
  - 10) Using the restroom before or after rehearsal
  - 11) Demonstrating a positive attitude
- Performance etiquette
  - 1) Arriving on time, dressed appropriately in concert attire
  - 2) Displaying mature behavior before, during, and after the performance
  - 3) Showing respect and appreciation to other groups that perform at the same concert
  - 4) Helping move equipment, fold programs, and other related tasks
- Preparation and organization
  - 1) Arriving to all instrumental music classes on time with instrument, accessories, and music folder

## **Grade Frequency**

- Instrumental music student will receive a weekly rehearsal grade based on performance and participation in rehearsals.
- Instrumental music student will receive a weekly technique class grade based on performance, participation, and individual assessment in technique classes
- Instrumental students will receive a grade for each performance