



Music Ensemble Attendance Policy

Participation in a music ensemble is a commitment that extends beyond the regular school day. Because our bands, choirs, orchestras, and guitar ensembles function as teams, each student's attendance at rehearsals and performances is essential to the success of the entire group. Concerts and performances serve as the culminating demonstration of the skills and musical growth developed throughout the semester and are considered the equivalent of a midterm or final exam. As part of an academic course, concerts provide an important opportunity for teachers to evaluate each student's achievement while presenting an accurate representation of the ensemble's preparation and commitment.

For this reason, attendance at all scheduled performances is required. By enrolling in a music ensemble, students and parents acknowledge and agree to this commitment and understand that participation in all performances is an expectation of the course.

Students who believe they may have a conflict with a performance must submit an [Excused Absence Request](#) at least two weeks in advance. The appropriate teacher, in conjunction with the Fine Arts Director, will review the request and determine whether the student's absence may be excused. Students who are not excused from the performance will be expected to attend.

- Students with unexcused absences who do not attend the performance will earn a grade of "zero."
- Students who are excused from the performance must complete both make-up assignments listed below to earn their grade for the performance.

Universal Make-Up Assignment

All students must complete Parts A & B of the make-up assignment

A. Performance

Option 1 (available to all students): Live Solo Performance—work with your teacher to schedule before the missed performance

- Middle School & High School Ensembles: the student will perform selected repertoire for the teacher and Fine Arts Director
- High School Honors Ensembles: the student will perform selected repertoire for the class

Option 2 (not available to Honors-level students): Video Performance & Paper—due by the date of the missed performance

- The student will perform selected repertoire on video and write a paper answering the following prompts:
 - "What challenges did you face in rehearsing and performing this music?"



- “How did you grow as a musician through these challenges?”
- Paper Length Requirements:
 - 5th & 6th Grade Ensembles: ½ page
 - 7th & 8th Grade Ensembles: 1 page
 - High School Ensembles: 2 pages

B. Video Evaluation—due one week after the performance

The student will watch a recording of his or her group’s performance and then answer the prompts below:

- “List three ways our group achieved our goals for the performance.”
- “List three ways our group can still improve.”