

Parkway North Music Department Student Handbook 2007-2008

Mr. Andrew LaRose - Band
Mr. Ken Rapini - Orchestra
Mr. Mark Linn - Band
Mr. Brian Reeves- Choir
Mr. Derrick Fox - Choir

Parkway North's Music Department Grading and Attendance Procedures

Grades will be determined as follows:

- 35% Daily Participation
- 30% Performance Tests, Class Work and Sectionals
- 35% Dress Rehearsal and Performances

Daily Participation 35%

Each day students may receive a possible ten points. They are expected to be in class on time and actively engaged in rehearsing as well as contributing to discussions and doing written work. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, will count as zero points, and other deductions may be made at the discretion of the director. This is an ensemble performance class, therefore participation points cannot be made up (major religious holidays being the exception.) Extra credit will be awarded at the discretion of the director.

Tardies

It is crucial that rehearsals start on time. A tardy will be assessed when a student is not in singing position when the bell rings (choir). Band and Orchestra students need to be in the room when the bell rings and actively setting up your own personal equipment. This process should not take longer than two minutes. To avoid being counted as tardy, plan on getting to class early. Students coming tardy from another school function, other teacher, or the office must have a pass.

- All tardies will result in a 5 point deduction from the daily participation grade.
- All tardies may result in school detention(s)

Performance Tests, Class Work, and Sectionals 30%

Testing will include, but is not exclusive to written assignments, tests, quizzes, projects and individual performing tests. For any missed assignment or test due to an excused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor to make up the work. Allowing the student to do make up work due to an unexcused absence is at the discretion of the instructor. All written tests and assignments will be completed in pencil. Every student must have a pencil each day.

Performances 35%

Concerts and Dress Rehearsals

Concerts and dress rehearsals are culminating events of the extensive educational musical experiences offered. As members of the ensemble every student vitally contributes to the learning process and to each concert. Music classes are among the very few academic classes in which one person's action/performance effects the overall performance of the group. Therefore, to receive the full 35% grade portion, it is imperative that each student attend **EVERY** performance and dress rehearsal. **To be clear, it is the sole responsibility of the student to follow the procedures below in order to receive credit for an excused absence. If the absence is excused, it is also the sole responsibility of the student to both sign up for and perform an honors jury at the end of the semester.**

Absences from Concerts and Dress Rehearsals

Absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be evaluated with the final determination made only by the instructor. These are performance classes. These experiences cannot be duplicated. When a student is unable to attend a performance or dress rehearsal due to illness or any other unforeseen complications, he/she must use the following procedure to be considered for an excused absence:

1. Call Parkway North at 415-7600 and dial the appropriate teacher's voice mail: Mr. Rapini (55614), Mr. Linn (55613), Mr. Reeves (55634), Mr. LaRose (55624) Mr. Fox (57648)
2. State the reason that you will not be attending the event.
3. The next school day, bring a signed note from a parent stating the reason for absence.
4. **If** the absence is excused, the student should see their instructor immediately for their make-up assignment. If a jury is assigned, it may take place at the same time as the other honors juries but will be conducted differently.
 - a. The student must find out in advance from the instructor what music is to be performed at this jury.
 - b. The grade earned will be the grade for the missed concert.
 - c. Juries to make up excused absences may be scheduled at times other than the end of the semester with the approval of the instructor.

**** Please read - Even if the instructor excuses an absence from a concert, the student grade will still indicate a missed performance until a jury is performed.**

The 18-week semester grade is cumulative, not an average of the three six-week grades. If a class has scheduled performances late in the semester and the student misses them, it is highly likely that his/her six week grade could be an A, the 12-week grade an A, and the semester grade a D. This is because a student must attend all performances, or be excused through the aforementioned policy.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be awarded at the discretion of the director. In choir, a student may receive extra credit by playing or singing anything by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Classroom and Performance Expectations

The Classroom

1. The classroom environment is a direct reflection of the rehearsal. We will keep the room orderly.
2. In the classroom, food, gum, candy, and drinks other than closed water containers are prohibited!!! Substances such as these inhibit proper singing/playing technique as well as damage the instruments, stands, risers, carpets, music, etc...

The Rehearsal

1. Students must come to rehearsal properly prepared. This includes any or all of the following:
 - a. rehearsed music for the day
 - b. instrument (band/orchestra)
 - c. music
 - d. pencil
 - e. music notebook
 - f. accessories, i.e. mutes, resin, valve oil etc.
2. Talking during rehearsal will be at a minimum. Excessive disturbances due to talking will result in the lowering of the daily grade as well as the possibility of an after school detention.
3. Physical contact, unsolicited or not, interferes not only with the individual's space, but also with a productive class. The inability to keep one's hands to himself/herself could result in a detention and a two-page paper assigned.

School Instrument/Music Policy

School instruments are assigned to individual students. District policy states:

1. Use is exclusive to the student(s) to whom the instrument is assigned.
2. The student(s) will be financially responsible for any damage or the loss of the instrument/ music/ folder.
3. The instrument/ music/ folder shall be returned to the director when required.
4. The same policy exists for any school-owned property loaned to students such as, but not limited to:
 - a. compact discs/ records/ tapes
 - b. books
 - c. accessory equipment
 - d. uniforms
 - e. concert attire

Concert Dress -

Band

Men: white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black pants, black jacket black socks, black dress shoes. A tuxedo would be appropriate and desired.

Women: Solid black dress, black shoes.

Choir

Men: Black head to toe - Black dress pants, black shoes, black socks, black button-down shirt, black undershirt OR just button up the black button-down shirt, and a black belt.

Women: Black head to toe - Black long-sleeve top of solid material (no mesh) that covers the entire stomach up almost to the neck - either long black dress pants or black skirt with black tights (no bare legs) - black dress shoes

Symphonic Orchestra

Men: Black Tux or Black Suit, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes.

Women: Solid black dress, black shoes

Concert Orchestra

Men: Black pants, long sleeved white dress shirt, long black tie, black socks and black shoes.

Women: Black slacks or long black skirt, long sleeved white blouse, black shoes.

Seating and Challenges

The director of the ensemble determines the seating for each section, placing the more responsible and advanced musicians in leadership positions or in advanced ensembles. A student who wishes to challenge the individual seated next to him/her must inform the director of that desire. If the director feels that the student is ready to assume a more responsible position in that section, the challenge will be approved and a date will be set with the person being challenged. If the challenge is refused, the higher chair is forfeited.

Challenges will not be permitted three weeks prior to a performance. Challenges that require changing a part (i.e. 3rd clarinet to 2nd) requires the lower part to learn the higher part.

Both students must be prepared for the challenge by practicing the music selected by the director. The challenge may be taped or live in a blind situation. Sight-reading may also be used to aid in making the final decision. If the challenger performs with a higher degree of accuracy and musical skill, the change will be made. All decisions made will be final and at the discretion of the director. After the challenge, the same students may not challenge each other again for two weeks.

Private Lessons

Students in the advanced musical ensembles are not required but expected to study with a private teacher or mentor. Parkway offers a list of private instructors but students may use others. Before selecting your private instructor, we strongly recommend that you consult your North High music teacher, all of whom have years of experience, fancy degrees, and most importantly, your best interest at heart. Private lessons offer students individual instruction not available in a classroom ensemble setting. This is the only way students will realize their maximum musical potential, and is required of all students applying for Honors Grades.

Honor Grade

Any sophomore, junior or senior enrolled in an approved honor grade class is eligible. An application (see attached) must be completed and submitted at the performance jury. All of the requirements must be met on the application. The determination of whether or not an Honor Grade is given is based upon how well a student has met the written requirements specified on the application and upon the performance at the jury. Only the highest level of musical performance will be considered for an H grade.