

Grading Procedures

Three ingredients are necessary for success in instrumental music lessons: student, teacher, and parent. In order to keep you well informed of your child's progress, here are the procedures we will be using for this school year.

Students will receive a weekly assignment and are expected to prepare the assignment for performance at the following lesson. Students **DO NOT** need to record their practice minutes. Instead, students will be expected to master skills throughout the year. Regular home practice by the student will be necessary for mastery.

Written homework assignments may be assigned and quizzes may be given in addition to the regular lesson book material. These assignments and studies are as important as practicing.

This year, student progress will be reported through Sapphire on the students' report cards for the 2nd and 4th quarters. Only one cumulative grade will be listed on the report card for orchestra, but a breakdown of how that grade was earned will be visible online. The next page includes a brief explanation of the criteria with which your child's progress will be assessed.



Grading Criteria

1. **Care and Maintenance:** rosin bow as needed, tighten bow before playing, loosen bow after playing, keep instrument clean using the correct cleaning cloth
2. **Posture:** sit or stand up straight while playing, feet on the floor while seated
3. **Position:** place and hold the instrument correctly
4. **Bow Hold:** hold the bow correctly
5. **Intonation:** place fingers correctly so that each note is in tune; listen to each note and adjust finger placement as needed so that each note is in tune
6. **Tone Quality:** good sound produced with a straight bow stroke using proper bow placement, weight, and speed
7. **Bowing:** use of the correct bow stroke including proper division of the bow
8. **Rhythm:** the ability to recognize note values and to perform them within the context of a steady pulse or “beat”
9. **Knowledge of Fingerings:** recall quickly how to play the different notes
10. **Music Reading:** the ability to perform correct notes, rhythms, articulations, dynamics and tempos as written in the music
11. **Practice Habits:** practice 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week; master all weekly assignments
12. **Attitude:** enthusiastic, hard worker, responsible, dependable, tries his or her best