**Grading Policy/Assessments/Expectations**

We have a great scope and sequence in Music to align with the New Core Arts Standards and Washington State Standards. This curriculum spans K-12 in all areas of music. In Orchestra classes students will be Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting. We are very excited to be using the online classroom, MusicFirst, in our classes. In addition to performing as a group, each student will need to work on their essential skills and projects that will meet the areas of content and benchmarks for their level.

20% Daily work in rehearsals (bringing instrument, music, pencil, following rehearsal rules, working independently and in a group, etc.) – 5 points assessed daily

30% Concert attendance/performance (see classroom policy for illness, etc.) 200 points per concert. Participation in all performances is required.

50% Playing/performing on instrument tests and Written work (music theory, composition, etc.)

**Daily Work:** Bring your instrument, music binder and pencil with you to class each day so that you can participate in our amazing musical experience. Work hard to follow all of our classroom rules and rehearsal behaviors to make each day a great rehearsal. Orchestra musicians will be on time to class, set up, have instruments tuned and music ready within the first 3 minutes of rehearsal. Orchestra members are required to have a ***pencil on your stand at all times.***  In the daily orchestra class students will be expected to exhibit behavior which would be acceptable in a professional orchestra. Please stop playing when I stop conducting, and do not practice with your bow when I am working with another section. I'll teach you how to "pro practice". No ***gum chewing*** is allowed at Beaver Lake and shouldn’t ever happen when you are playing. You will be **assessed 5 points daily** for having all your things ready to use in class and following rehearsal rules.

**Concert Attendance**: Performances are an important goal of the orchestra, and each member is expected to be in attendance with their music, instrument, and the proper attire. Performances are our end projects and will be part of your grade. We are a team, and just like in athletics each person is essential. If you have a prior commitment at the time of a performance that can’t be changed (other awards ceremony, vacation, etc.); you must give me **14 days prior** notice of the conflict, so that I can make changes in the program and other staging concerns. If approved I will give you a make-up assignment for **80%** of the grade you would get if you were at the performance. If you are ill please leave me a voice mail at 837-4146 or send me an email at [vailm@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:vailm@issaquah.wednet.edu) and you will be excused.

**Playing/performing on your instrument:**

**Playing tests:** Students will be assessed using playing tests on technique or short excerpts from our music we are working on. Assessments will be approximately every 2 weeks.

**Ensemble work**: All students will work in an ensemble group of their choice during 2nd trimester as well as prepare a solo. These groups can be from 2 - 16. This will culminate with a performance during class and 300 points for the project. You are highly encouraged to perform at the Eastshore Solo and Ensemble festival in March. You should perform solo your solo in addition to the ensemble and it looks great on your resume and college applications!

**Written work**: work we will be doing may include music theory, a listening journal, making a transcription of a song, special effects stories, and a composition for their own instrument.

**Practice Time:** Students should practice a minimum of 90 minutes a week to be a productive part of the Orchestra team. Please set aside a quiet place in your home for this practice time and try to divide the time into the most days that you can. A shorter practice for 3-5 days a week is better than two hours in one day. Daily is the best for about 15 minutes (beginners) to 45(moderate/advanced) minutes depending on your level. Occasionally give yourself a day off of practice; it is good for you and your hands!

You may come in before or after school to practice in the orchestra room, practice room alone or with others. I am available to help you anytime. Just ask!!!