



West Chester Area School District
Department of Instrumental Music



First-Year Band Students
Woodwind and Brass Instrument Course Expectations

Dear Students and Parents,

Playing an instrument is a valuable and exciting opportunity that can bring a lifetime of enjoyment. With regular practice and attendance at lessons, nearly everyone can be a successful musician. Please read the following list of expectations for first-year students:

- 1) **PRACTICE YOUR INSTRUMENT!!** Nothing is more important to your success than the amount of time you spend practicing. We recommend **TWO HOURS** a **WEEK** of practice. Try to schedule a certain time each day for practicing. Students may be asked to keep track of how much time they practice each day, using a chart provided by the teacher.
- 2) **BE PREPARED FOR YOUR LESSON!!!** In addition to learning the songs that are assigned, each student needs to be on time for his or her lesson, with instrument and book. Some students may need help remembering their instruments on lesson day. Because there is only one lesson each week, each lesson is very important.
- 3) **LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT** - We will start by learning the basics of producing a sound, rhythm-reading, and note-reading. Once we learn the basics, students are expected to master several new songs each week, as well as review any other songs that still need work. By January, students should be familiar with at least six notes on their instrument, should be able to play 10 or 15 folk songs, and should have completed several pages in the book. During the second half of the year, we will be working out of the lesson book. Students who reach page 12 in the Accent on Achievement book will begin to learn some of the music for the spring concert. First-year students do not play in the winter concert. Students who begin their instrument in fifth grade are expected to SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED the expectations listed above if they wish to be accepted into the band in sixth grade.
- 4) **EVALUATION** - Twice each year, usually in December and in May, students will receive a Band Progress Report. Students are graded on their Attendance, Behavior, Preparedness, Sound production, Rhythm-Reading, and Note-Reading. One copy of the report card needs to be signed and returned.

On the other side of this paper is a message to parents or guardians, which tells you things that you can do that will help your child, and things that you should NOT do. Please take the time to read those suggestions carefully, because the support of a parent or guardian goes a long way towards helping a student become successful on an instrument.

Below please find a space for the student's signature and a space for the parent or guardian to sign, indicating that they have read and understand what is expected of them. Thank you for your interest in the band program. I am looking forward to a productive year.

Sincerely,

Band Director

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature