

# **John Hersey High School**

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY**

The following grading policy will be in effect for the school year and represents a general policy for the Music Department at John Hersey High School, including **all** instrumental and vocal ensembles. Each musical ensemble will define the policy further to meet specific course expectations. The following has been approved by all music program directors and the JHHS administration.

### **PARTICIPATION - 40 %**

“Participation” is a broad idea that includes such criteria as student punctuality, preparedness and remaining on task during class. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and class participation. Musical Ensembles will define his area further to meet specific expectations unique to the group. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the semester grade.

### **TESTING - 30 %**

Each ensemble will participate in a regular testing cycle, as prescribed by the director.

### **PERFORMANCES - 30 %**

This portion of the grade is based on attendance. It is expected that every student be prepared, both technically and mentally, for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the consequence for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization’s performance is judged by our school, community, our families and, in some cases, judges. One person’s absence affects the entire ensemble’s performance. A schedule of events will be provided to each student well in advance of every event. Conflicts or problems should be handled before they become an issue!! **Unexcused absence from a performance - loss of 30% of grade.**

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

*In order for an absence from a rehearsal or performance to be excused, a note or phone call from a parent/guardian must be received, reviewed and approved by the director **as soon as the student knows of the conflict.** In the case of an unavoidable emergency, a note or phone call must be received on the student’s first day back to school or rehearsal. Notification as early as possible allows the ensemble to make adjustments so that every other student, and the program, is not affected. You will have a schedule of events well in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! Students who are employed outside of school may NOT use work as an excuse to miss a performance.*

***The only excuses that will be accepted after performances will be those involving unavoidable emergencies and sickness.*** In the event of an excused absence from a performance, an alternative assignment may be issued at the discretion of the director.

\* Percentages above will be adjusted to incorporate Final Exam grades each semester

Approved 7/30/09