

Grading Policy for the ICA Elementary Band

Dear Parents,

Thank-you for encouraging your child to be a part of the ICA beginning band program. This is an exciting time in the life of every student who desires to begin a musical instrument. For the parent, the amount of patience needed is sometimes greater than that needed by the student. Hopefully, the things found in this information memo will help make this new adjustment very smooth.

Please read this, then sign and return the portion that indicates you have done so. If questions arise throughout the year, you may reference this policy sheet on the school's web page at www.indianachristianacademy.org or you may feel free to call me at school (643-7853 ext. 215) or home (641-7966) with any questions you may have regarding the band program. You may also e-mail me at jerry.ascher@mygbcweb.org I count it a privilege to work with the students here at ICA and am looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,
Jerry Ascher
Director of Bands

Practice Requirements

Each student will keep track of the weekly band assignment in their school assignment book, which will be checked by their teacher the first day of every week. **The first nine weeks, each student will be required to practice a certain number of days per week, but no practice time will be recorded. Beginning the second quarter, however, a specific amount of practice time will be required.** This will be combined with an effort grade which will be more subjective and is determined solely on how they measured up to their potential on their instrument. The following is a breakdown of the practice time expectations.

For an A, each student must practice 20 minutes per day (average) for 5 days.

This will equal a total of 1 hour and 40 minutes per week.

B = 15 minutes per day (1 hour and 15 minutes per week)

C = 10 minutes per day (50 minutes per week)

D = 5 minutes per day (25 minutes per week)

F = 0 minutes per day

The total practice time **must** be accompanied by a **parent's signature** in the assignment notebook to receive proper credit.

Here are some helpful hints for practicing:

I. Planning the practice

A. Place: The same place each practice time; should be quiet and free from distractions.

The room should have adequate lighting.

B. Time: Regular (**Note: a little practice EVERY day is better than a lot of practice once or twice a week.**)

C. Schedule: Make a practice schedule by setting a time limit for each page or each piece.

For example: 20 minutes can be divided like this:

3": warm-up (long tones, scales, buzzing)

6": pg. 12 #32, 33

8": pg. 12 #35 - variation

3": warm-down, clean instrument

II. Tools for practice:

A. Pencil - mark problem spots and difficult fingerings with a pencil.

B. Metronome - helps keep common, recurring time.

C. Music stand - helps student maintain good posture throughout practice time.

PRACTICE RULES TO BE OBSERVED

1. **Never practice mistakes** - "I'll fix it later.", but beginners tend not to.
2. Practice **SLOWLY** at first - beginners tend to practice their pieces too quickly.
3. Set specific goals for practice time. "I want to accomplish _____."
4. Select passages for practice - isolate problem spots.
5. Practice small portions; avoid the tendency to start and stop at the same places all the time.
6. Repeat correctly three times - the 3 penny game.
7. Practice the piece as a whole.
8. Practice for fluency and flow without pauses or hesitations. **BE CONSISTENT!**
9. Practice until perfect.

YOUR STUDENT'S FINAL GOAL - "DID I PLAY IT WELL?"

CALENDAR

DAY	EVENT	TIME & LOCATION
September 4*	Band memo signed and returned to Mr. Ascher	
October 30*	Concert for Grandparents Day	TBA - GBC Auditorium
December 15*	ICA Christmas Program	7:00 p.m. - GBC Auditorium
April 27*	ICA Spring Concert	7:00 p.m. - GBC Auditorium
May 21	ICA Commencement	7:00 - GBC Auditorium

*indicates required event for all band members.

LESSONS

The normal elementary band schedule will be as follows:

Monday - full band
Tuesday - woodwinds
Wednesday - percussion
Thursday - brass
Friday - full band

In preparation for concerts and academic meets, this schedule could be modified a little. However, this is the normal schedule! Please make sure that your child brings their instrument and book on the proper day. Failure to do so will result in a mark, unless it is determined the band director is at fault for not communicating. I'll try to keep these times to a minimum!!

A few private lesson openings are available. **PRIVATE LESSONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL BEGINNERS!** Lessons are paid through the ICA office at \$10 per lesson. Lessons occur during the school day, and each student will receive 28 lessons per year.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

A student who uses an ICA-owned instrument will need to pay a \$10 per month rental fee. This fee will be used for any needed repair on these instruments. Any accessories (i.e. reeds, oil, cream, etc.) will still be the student's responsibility. Each payment will be due by the first of each month and will be handled through the office.

CONCERT DRESS

ICA does not own its own uniforms. We ask each student to wear to each concert the following attire:

Gentlemen

Khaki pants
Belt
Dress shoes (**no tennis shoes**) and dark socks
White, **long-sleeved dress** shirt
White t-shirt
Conservative tie

Ladies

Khaki skirt
(Must cover the knees when seated)
White, long-sleeved dress blouse or shirt
White knee socks or hose
Dress shoes

A matching sweater vest will need to be purchased by each student. The cost for these vests will be minimal. Please have these outfits clean and pressed for every concert.

GRADING

Besides practice and a daily effort grade, each student will receive grades on theory and history worksheets as well as periodic playing exams. These worksheets and playing exams correlate with the Accent on Achievement books.

COSTS

Each student must have the "Accent on Achievement" book which correlates with their instrument. This book must be present at each rehearsal.

Reeds and oils may be purchased in our school bookstore for a reduced rate. Any other needed items may be ordered through the school at a reduced rate.

Students will be expected to purchase their own solos for any recital and academic meet.

Please sign and return this by September 5 to indicate that you have read and understand this memo. Thanks!
(One per family)

Parent's signature _____

Student's signature _____