

# Gonzaga Prep Beginning Bands

## Classroom Expectations

Band students are expected to always be:

1. **Respectful** – to people and equipment
2. **Responsible** – for doing what they should be doing when they should be doing it.
3. **Resourceful** – using their skills and resources to solve problems

**Materials** - Students need the following materials in class every day.

- **Instrument** – A flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, or bells/snare drum kit and all of the materials required to play it and keep it in working order (see ‘What I Need For Band’.) It is the parent(s)’ or guardian(s)’ responsibility to provide an approved band instrument for his or her child by **Monday, September 19** as well as make sure the instrument remains in proper playing condition throughout the year.
- **Accent on Achievement, Book 1** – This book is specific to your child’s instrument. Every student will need a book to practice at home as well as complete short assignments related to the musical skills and terms that we are learning
- **A Band Folder** – Students will be given loose copies of concert music. It is the students’ responsibility to ensure that these materials come to class every day and stay in good condition.
- **Pencil** – Each student is required to have a pencil at his or her seat every day of class. We will often make notes and changes in our music. We ask for pencils and not pens so that students can erase as necessary.

## Performance Dates –

**St. Mary Christmas Program – Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 PM (St. Mary Students)**

**Assumption Christmas Program – Thursday, December 15, Time TBA (Assumption Students)**

**Spring Diocese Band Concert – Thursday, March 16, 7:00 PM (All Students, 6 PM Call Time)**

**End of Year Grade School Band Concert – Thursday, June 1, 7:00 PM (All Students, 6PM Call)**

**Practice Expectations – Students can only make progress on their instrument through intentional practice at home.** Learning to play an instrument bears many similarities to training for an athletic event: It requires daily, purposeful training to improve and prevent frustration.

You can help your student succeed by working with them to set aside 15-30 minutes per day to play their instrument. Good practice should sound like:

- **At least some long tones, flexibility exercises, and scales.** A good warm up is important for the physical as well as the mental element of playing. In the first years, much of the progress students make comes from regular use of these techniques.
- **Singing, Counting, Clapping, Speaking Note Names, etc.** Part of practicing with intent is breaking the work into smaller parts. Students using these techniques are deliberately improving their knowledge and performance in one area and then applying it to playing the instrument.
- **Making good, recognizable sounds.** After the first few band classes, students should be able to play some recognizable melodies. If it sounds like your child is playing one note, or making bad sounds, feel free to offer some assistance.
- **At least some rest.** Like physical exercise, practice is best done in intervals. Students who play for many minutes without pause risk developing bad habits as a result of muscle fatigue. No one starts their workout by bench-pressing hundreds of pounds or running a marathon; we work up to it.

**Grading** - Band grades will be earned in three categories: **Participation, Preparation, and Performance.**

Posted Grade	Standard Equivalent	Letter Equivalent	What Participation Looks Like	What Preparation Looks Like	What Performance Looks Like
5 – Exceeding Expectations	O	A+	The Student: -comes to class with all materials. -is very attentive. -shows willingness to try everything. -shows leadership	The Student: -clearly practices at home every day. -can play all assigned music with a high level of understanding.	The student: -attends all concerts. -arrives to performances on time and dressed appropriately. -shows leadership
4 – Meeting Expectations	S+	A	The Student: -comes to class with all materials. -is attentive. -shows willingness to try everything.	The Student: -clearly practices at home many times per week. -can play all assigned music.	The student: -attends all concerts. -arrives to performances on time and dressed appropriately.
3 – Approaching Expectations	S	B	The Student: -forgets some materials. -is often attentive. -shows willingness to try most things.	The Student: -shows evidence of some home practice. -can mostly play assigned music.	The student does not meet all above expectations with regard to performances.
2 – Improving Toward Expectation	S-	C	The Student: -often forgets class materials. -is sometimes attentive. -is rarely willing to try new things.	The Student: -practices sometimes -can sometimes play the assigned music.	The student meets some of the performance expectations.
1 – Struggling To Meet Expectations	N	F	The Student: -rarely participates or does so with poor attitude or effort. -is not attentive.	The Student: -shows little evidence of practice or improvement.	The student meets few or none of the performance expectations.

**Consequences for not meeting expectations:**

When a student:	Forgets their Instrument	Is removed from class for disrupting (after two warnings.)	Plays out of turn (after one warning.)
First Infraction	No Instrument worksheet in class for partial participation credit.	Behavior reflection worksheet in class for partial participation credit	Behavior reflection worksheet in class for partial participation credit
Second Infraction	AND Parent and Student generated plan to have instrument at school	AND Teacher conference	AND Call home
Third Infraction	AND Plan signed by teacher and principal	Parent/Teacher Conference	AND Teacher conference

**Please return the following**

I have read and agree to the class expectations and guidelines for the Gonzaga Prep Beginning Band program as outlined in the above document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

**Please fill out the information below.**

**Parent(s)/Guardian's Name (s)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Best Daytime Contact  
(name, email, and phone)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact**

\_\_\_\_\_

**My Instrument Belongs to/is Rented from:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Instrument/Brand/Serial Number**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What other activities is your child involved in? (Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Music lessons, etc.)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Is there any other information I should know about your child?**

\_\_\_\_\_

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