

**BENNETT'S MILL ORCHESTRA  
GRADING POLICY  
2009 - 2010**

**PARTICIPATION (40 %)**

**Classroom Participation Rules:**

- Be on time to class
- Be prepared with instrument and supplies (binder, shoulder rest, pencil)
- Participate in classroom activities.
- Playing **must show consistent growth** and development.

**Participation Points**

All students start *with a 100 in participation*. Participation grades are given weekly. Point deductions are listed below:\*

Tardy	3 points	Disrespectful/class interruption	10 points
No Instrument	5 points	Behavior Journal	5 points
No Binder/Pencil	5 points	Administrative Referral	10 points
No Shoulder Rest	5 points	Unexcused absence	5 points

*\*Students may have point deductions removed with 30 minutes of extra practice*

**SKILL TESTS (25%)**

Written and playing tests will be given. *A test grade will be given for each performance*. Playing tests will be graded on the following:

- Posture and hand position
- Intonation
- Sound production (tone)
- Rhythm and tempo
- Style and articulation
- Expressive qualities (i.e. dynamics, phrasing)

**QUIZZES (10%)**

Written and playing tests will be given. Students will receive a quiz grade for afterschool rehearsals. Playing tests are graded the same as skill tests.

**HOMEWORK (20%)**

**Students are asked to practice their instruments 30 minutes a day, five days a week, outside of class.** Students must be able to **practice a minimum of three days a week** (except in family emergency cases) in order to remain in orchestra. Orchestra is a group activity and weekly practice is required. Students will be given practice logs to keep in their binders. Weekly practice must be recorded **AND SIGNED by parents**. Practice logs will be checked **EVERY TUESDAY**. Weekly grades will be given according to the number of days practiced. Less than three days of practice will be given a 0. Practice logs that are received on Wednesday will only receive 50% credit and no practice logs will be accepted after Wednesday. Thirty minutes can be counted on your student's practice log for any after-school orchestra activity such as rehearsals, private **or group lessons**. **Consistent failure** to turn in practice logs may result in removal from orchestra class and/or may keep a student from attending an orchestra fieldtrip. **Please note:** Two grades a nine weeks of zero puts a student on probation. Three grades of zero may prohibit a student from participating in any orchestra fieldtrips or performances. Four grades of zero may result in the student being removed from orchestra at the end of the nine weeks.

**CORRESPONDANCE AND BINDER (5%)**

Students will be given a grade for taking correspond home, having it signed and returning it on time. One day late results in 50% credit and more than one day late is a zero. Binders will be checked on a regular basis and students will be given a grade for having all materials in their binders. Parents should routinely check their students' orchestra binder or agenda for important correspondence. When appropriate, email will be used.