

CEDAR HIGH SCHOOL REDS BANDS - GRADING INFORMATION 2025-2026

In accordance with ICSD Policy, band classes will use Standards-Based Grading (Proficiency Based Learning). This is a performance-based class, and grades are based on the student's performance and progress relative to each standard.

At the beginning of each term, students will be given a **Term Grade Tracker**, which includes a list of the scheduled events for the upcoming term and a breakdown of the assignments and standards for that term.

Standards for band are as follows:

Technical Performance Skills	Notational Literacy	Productive Rehearsal Habits
Respond and Connect	Create	Ensemble Performance

In addition, the "Iron Essential 8" standards will also be a part of a student's band grade:

Responsibility	Creativity	Growth Mindset	Critical Thinking
Resilience		Communication	Financial Literacy

The weight of each standard will vary by term, but in general, Productive Rehearsal Habits and Ensemble Performance will weigh the most heavily on the grade. "Essential 8" standards, while important, will generally count for no more than 5% of the grade.

Technical Performance Skills

Assessments include technique development (such as scale tests) and checks on music that the class is currently working on. Generally, these assessments will be completed individually, but may occasionally be done by an entire section (i.e., trumpets) at one time.

Music - Passages will be selected as needed.

Technique – Assignments will be given at the beginning of each term and can be passed off any time before the due date.

Personal Development – Students will have the following options to fulfill this requirement:

1. Take private lessons on their band instrument
2. Participate in Pep Band
3. Perform an appropriate solo in class, with accompaniment
4. Participate in SUU Honor Band, All-State Band, or other approved invitational bands
5. Attend and adjudicate 2 (two) performances by non-CHS bands at the high school level or above
6. Complete an audition for a college/university music program (Seniors only)

Notational Literacy

Assessments include short exercises designed to be sight-read or learned very quickly. Students will demonstrate their ability to "translate" the printed page into sound.

Productive Rehearsal Habits

Assessment will appear on the grade in two-week increments. The following factors will impact a student's score for this standard:

1. Rehearsal Demeanor – Includes attitude, showing respect, posture/body language, responsiveness to instruction and feedback, talking at appropriate times, marking music, etc.
2. Absences – Excessive and/or unexcused absences.
3. Tardies – Students are expected to be in their seats, with instruments out and ready to play when the warm-up has begun. As per school policy, there are no excused tardies.
4. Equipment - Students are expected to bring their instrument each day, as well as all necessary equipment such as: folder, music, method book, pencil, tuner, etc.
5. Food/Drink/Gum – Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own refillable water-bottle – WITH A SCREW-TOP LID – to class each day. No other food/drink/gum/candy etc. is allowed in the band room during rehearsal.

6. Cell Phone – Students may use their cell phones and any other personal electronic devices for specific purposes (tuner, metronome, etc.) during specific times during rehearsal as directed. *All other use is prohibited by state law*, and will result in a score of 0 or 1 on the proficiency scale for that rehearsal. Students who use their cell phone without permission will be subject to school/district/state laws and policies. Emergency cell phone use will be handled on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, please involve the teacher/director beforehand if you know you are going to be receiving a crucial text or call during that class period or event.
7. Sectionals – Short, focused rehearsals of one or two sections (i.e., trombones, flutes, etc.). Usually two per term. One may be a scheduled lunch or XLT sectional with the director. Section leaders will be responsible for scheduling sectionals with the help of the rest of the section in advance to allow ample time for individuals to make arrangements. Additional sectionals may be called by the director or section leader as needed. Sectionals will appear as separate assessments on the grade, but are still under the Productive Rehearsal Habits standard.

Respond and Connect

Assessments will include analysis of performances in a variety of settings. Concert attendance, self-adjudication, peer adjudication, and video assessments will fall under this standard.

Create

Students will be given the opportunity to compose, arrange, or create new music, exercises, warm-ups, lyrics, etc.

Ensemble Performance

Band is a performing art – performances are THE central activity, like games and meets are to sports. Therefore, any missed performance must be pre-approved by the director to be excused. This includes illness, games, meets, and any other school activities. To be excused, the student must fill out the appropriate form. Forms must be signed by the parent and turned in **prior** to the performance. In the event that an emergency arises at the last minute, please notify the director at the earliest reasonable time either via Remind or email. Once excused, the student will still be responsible to complete an alternate assessment for that performance. The student will work with the director to find an acceptable alternate assignment. It should require time and effort comparable to the performance missed. Alternate assignments will also be given a reasonable, alternate due date.

These standards are used throughout ICSD and are aligned with the USOE and National Standards for Band. In addition, the CHS Band program reinforces these standards with the use of a minimum competency.

Minimum Competencies

Certain basic skills are expected of every student in order to demonstrate the minimum level of performance for band. While a student can still pass the class without meeting these minimums, they cannot earn an A. Generally, these will account for 20% of the grade each term. There are usually two minimum competencies per term. They are submitted on Canvas.

Students will:

- Perform each standard exercise at a “concert ready” level in order to pass
- Pass off each standard exercise three consecutive times
- If at any time a substandard performance is submitted, the student will start back over at zero

Minimum competencies will be practiced daily in class, and help will be given regularly. These are minimum standards, and should not be unreasonably challenging. Students who pass their minimum competencies are generally much more confident, enjoy band more, and are extremely likely to stay in band and progress in their section and in the band program.

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