



LAS VEGAS ACADEMY CONCERT BANDS

2017-18 COURSE EXPECTATIONS

GRADING POLICY

Grading Scale

A	=	90-100%	D	=	60-69%
B	=	80-89%	F	=	50-59%
C	=	70-79%			

Semester Grade

Quarter grades will be averaged with the final exam grade according to the following percentages to obtain semester grades:

Quarter 1 or 3	=	40%
Quarter 2 or 4	=	40%
Final Exam/Solo Jury	=	20%

Student's grades are determined using the following formula:

Ensemble Classes	Sectional Classes
Formative - 30% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Preparation (15%) Sectionals (15%) 	Formative - 30% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Preparation (15%) Practice Check (test) (15%)
Summative - 70% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Concert Performance (25%) Dress Rehearsals (15%) Playing Tests (20%) Peer Review (10%) 	Summative - 70% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Playing Test (60%) Peer Review (10%)

Performances represent the culmination of weeks of preparation. Every member of the ensemble must be present at every dress rehearsal and concert.

Explanation of Grading Policy

1. **Preparation** - Each student will be given a weekly grade based upon attendance and active participation. Time spent with paraprofessionals or adjunct teachers will also be a part of the student's preparation grade. Improper conduct with paraprofessionals will result in lowered preparation grades, detention, and/or discipline referral.
2. **Tests**
 - I. **Ensemble Tests**- Tests are based on assigned repertoire and etudes. These tests are frequently used for reseating and part assignment.
 - II. **Scale Tests**- Major and minor scale tests are used as a measure of technical proficiency. Tests are to be memorized and played at specified tempos.
 - III. **Literature/Sight Reading Tests**- Unit tests over prepared etudes and sight reading are a measure of musical literacy. Tests occur biweekly, over assigned content.
3. **After School Rehearsals, Sectionals and Performances**- Attendance at after school rehearsals, sectionals and performances affect both ensemble grade and eligibility
Performance grades are based on:
 - I. **Proper concert attire**- Students who fail to wear complete concert attire will have their grade lowered by one letter.
 - II. **Punctuality**- Students are expected to be on time. Students who are late for a rehearsal or performance will have their grade lowered by one letter.
 - III. **Adherence to the Code of Conduct for Rehearsal and Performance Etiquette.** (See Music Department Handbook)
 - IV. **Concert Tear Down**- All students are expected to stay and help clear the stage before leaving the performance venue.
4. **Peer Review**- All students will be required to attend one music department performance that they are not participating in each quarter. This could be a hand-bell, jazz band, orchestra, choir, piano, guitar, or mariachi concert. Performances must be at least 60 minutes long. All Peer Reviews should be submitted with the Peer Review Form, Concert Program and Event Ticket. No reviews will be accepted after the last day of the quarter.
5. **Final Exam/Jury**
 - I. **Written Final Exam**- Each semester students will be evaluated over fundamental musical concepts, terminology and repertoire.
 - II. **Jury Examination**- Students are required to perform a jury examination each semester. The jury should demonstrate mastery of a significant solo etude. Etudes should be appropriate to each student's level of musical development and must be approved by the instructor one month prior to performance. In addition to the selected etude, juries may also include scales and sight reading at the instructor's discretion. Juries are performed beginning the week before final examinations and are presented in front of the class. In addition to the playing component of their jury, students are required to submit a written evaluation of ten other juries using the *Jury Evaluation Form*.

Citizenship

Student conduct while representing the Las Vegas Academy bands should be of the highest standard. The conduct of each student reflects directly upon the entire school and community.

Students receiving any grade below a "B" are not eligible for an outstanding citizenship mark. Disruptive behavior, unapproved absences to sectionals, dress rehearsals and performances, and missed make up work adversely affect citizenship.

Make-up Work

Students with an approved absence are required to do make-up work in order to receive a grade for the event. To receive an excused absence, parents must submit an absence request at least two weeks in advance for approval. Once approved, it is the student's responsibility to request make-up work for an absence. All make-up work must be turned in within 3 days of returning to school. Failure to complete make-up work will result in a zero. (See the Music Department Handbook for a detailed description of excused/unexcused absences.)

Expectations

Concert Expectations

- To verify concert attendance, students must sign-in upon arrival and sign-out at the conclusion of the event.
- Students wishing to leave early must submit a written note from parents two weeks prior to the event explaining the request for early dismissal.
- Students will have assigned seating in the audience.
- At the conclusion of the concert tear down, students must be picked up within 15 minutes. Concerts generally end at 8:30. For the safety of the students, failure to be picked up within 15 minutes will result in contacting CCSD police.
- Students are expected to remain in appropriate concert attire throughout the entire duration of the event.

Concert Attire

Gentlemen- Black Tux (no tails), coat, pants, black bow tie, black cummerbund, white shirt, black leather, or leather-looking dress shoes, and black socks. Sneakers, boots, tennis shoes, etc. are not acceptable. Many formal wear stores offer low cost specials on used tuxedos.

Ladies- Black dress (purchased through the band program), black dress shoes. Boots, sneakers, tennis shoes, etc. are not acceptable. Hair must be appropriate for a formal performance. Styles and colors should be traditional. Dress is fitted early September, and payment is due before dress is issued to student. Students will need at least one week to get dress hemmed before first concert. Approximate cost of the dress is \$85.

Students MUST purchase their formal concert uniform by the 25th of September

Band Placement

Ensemble placement is based upon the evaluation of musical skills and concepts at the band camp audition. All students will audition on the first day of band camp. Call back auditions will be done on the third day of band camp as necessary. In addition, students are required to meet specific ensemble eligibility requirements. Eligibility for the Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony is determined as follows:

- I. Daily Attendance- Students should demonstrate good attendance throughout the school year. Good attendance is defined as missing no more than 10% of daily rehearsals, regardless of reason.
- II. Concert Attendance- Students must be present for every concert. Failure to attend a concert will result in a formal review of eligibility.
- III. Citizenship- To establish eligibility, students must receive an "S" or "O" during the second semester.
- IV. Grades- To establish eligibility, students must receive an "A" or "B" in ensemble/sectional classes during the second semester.
- V. Academics- Because of the increased performance expectation and travel commitment, students must maintain good academic standing to be eligible for the Wind Ensemble. Good academic standing is defined as receiving no failing grades during the second semester. Students receiving a failing grade may submit a formal petition to restore eligibility before the band camp auditions.

Students who fail to meet eligibility requirement during the school year may be given alternate assignments or removed from the ensemble.

Attendance/Tardy Policy

Students must always report to class for attendance and announcements before being excused to a paraprofessional instructor. Please refer to the Music Department Handbook for general attendance policies.

Lab Fees

Each student is responsible for one \$80 lab fee. (\$40 per class) Lab fees are used for entry into solo and ensemble, auditions, and instrument/music inventory. Students may fundraise to offset these fees.

Concert/Festival Tours

Academy bands receive many invitations to perform at National Festivals, Conventions, Universities, etc. Students selected for the Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony are expected to attend all scheduled out of town trips. Students who cannot commit to travel will be assigned to another band. Estimated cost will be approximately \$250-\$1200 depending on the location and length of the trip. It is expected that each student will pay their own way. Fundraisers are scheduled throughout the year to help students and parents defray the cost of travel. Each student has their own trip account within the band account. Also, students may apply for limited financial assistance from the Las Vegas Academy Band Boosters.

It is our desire that every student be able to participate in all band activities. Students must meet the LVA academic eligibility standards to travel. Students and parents are reminded to meet all deadlines for paperwork, eligibility forms, and payments so that trip deposits are not jeopardized. Please refer to the Music Department Handbook for the trip deposit and refund policy.

Policies

Band Council

Each year students are elected to serve on the Band Council. Elected positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Band Representatives (one from each band). Students who serve in these positions must continue to meet all expectations of the directors and the Executive Council or be removed from office.

Instrument Security

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure their instrument, equipment, and supplies are safe, secure, and treated with respect. This is true of privately owned instruments and equipment belonging to LVA and the Clark County School District.

Band students will be assigned a locker and a combination lock in the rehearsal room for instrument storage. Locks must be returned when requested by the directors. Students should not share locker combinations with anyone except their locker mates. For added security, name tags or some form of identification must be visible on all instruments.

For security reasons, and to facilitate daily practice, students must take their instrument home daily. Students wishing to leave their instrument overnight must first receive approval from the directors.

Students who steal or damage the property of others will be referred to the Dean's office and the CCSD Police Department.

School Instruments

The school has a limited supply of instruments for use in our performing groups. Please contact the band department regarding availability of instruments. Students and parents are responsible for the care and maintenance of any instrument checked out to them and will be fined for any damage or neglect.

Students using school instruments must have their own mouthpiece and accessories and must accept responsibility for keeping the instrument in proper playing condition. This includes periodic maintenance and repairs when necessary. Students may continue to use school instruments as long as they are members of an ensemble in good standing. Students are never allowed to place decals or stickers on school instruments, cases or lockers.

Questions regarding repair should be directed toward the directors BEFORE action is taken.

School instruments as well as privately owned instruments are not insured by the district. We strongly recommend that parents add a rider to their homeowner's insurance policy to cover the loss of a musical instrument.

EQUIPMENT FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

The following equipment will help you play and sound your absolute best.

Woodwinds	Brass
Daily Planner	Daily Planner
Box of Reeds	Valve Oil
Reed Case/Holder	Tuning Slide Grease
Cork Grease	Cleaning Cloth
Key Oil	Water Bottle-Trb
Bore Oil (wood only)	Slide O Mix - Trb
Swab	Straight Mutes-Tpt, Trb, Hn
Cleaning Cloth	Cup Mutes - Tpt & Trb
Saxophones must have a	Stop Mute – Hn
Selmer C* concert mouthpiece.	Tuner and metronome
Tuner and metronome	

Reed Players: Check with your private teacher for the brand and strength of reed best suited for you. If you are not sure, check with the directors. Reed players should have a minimum of 5 working reeds at all times.

REQUIRED PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

Daily Planner	
Snare Drum Sticks	2 pairs for concert snare drum
Timpani Sticks	2 pairs, Med and Staccato (Hard) or comparable
Xylophone Mallets	1 pair, White Med Hard Poly Ball or comparable
Xylophone/Bell Mallets	1 pair, Black Phenolic Extra Hard Ball or comparable
Vibe Mallets	1 pair, Blue Cord or comparable
Marimba Mallets	1 pair, Med
Stick Bag	Any kind

Recommended Books for Study

Students in the LVA bands are required to purchase the following books for their instrument. In addition to providing valuable study material, these books are used when auditioning for the Clark County Honor Band and the Nevada All-State Band.

Flute

Melodious and Progressive Studies Book 2
Melodious and Progressive Studies Book 3

Robert Cavally
Robert Cavally

Oboe

48 Famous Studies

W. Ferling

Bassoon

Practical Method for the Bassoon

J. Weissenborn

Clarinet

32 Etudes for Clarinet
Melodious and Progressive Studies Book 1

C. Rose
David Hite

Saxophone

48 Famous Studies
Selected Studies

W. Ferling
H. Voxman

Trumpet

Sixty Selected Studies for Trumpet
Selected Studies

C. Kopprasch
by H. Voxman

Horn

335 Selected Melodious Progressive and Technical Studies for French Horn
Rubank Advanced Method Vol. I

Max Pottag and Albert Andraud
H. Voxman

Trombone

Melodious Etudes for Trombone
40 Progressive Studies

Joannes Rochut
H. W. Tyrell

Tuba

70 Studies for BB flat Tuba Volume I
Legato Etudes for Tuba Vol. 2

Vladislav Blazevich
Wesley Jacobs

Percussion

Musical Etudes for the Advanced Timpanist
Modern School for Xylophone Marimba Vibraphone
Portraits in Rhythm

Ron Fink
Morris Goldenberg
Anthony Cirone

The handbook is a living document and subject to change. Students will be given ample notice of any change in policy or performance dates.

Student/Parent Agreement Form

Please print, sign and return this page no later than Friday, September 1st, 2017.

I, (Student's name, please print) _____ have read the LVA Band Handbook and agree to adhere to the procedures, rules and guidelines as presented in the handbook.

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

I, (Parent's name, please print) _____ have received or down loaded a copy of the LVA Band Handbook and understand the procedures, rules and guidelines as presented in the handbook.

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)