



September 5, 2023

Dear Parents and Families of Secondary Music Students:

Music is a performing art. The National Standards for Music Education and the Virginia Music Standards of Learning identify *performance* as a critical component. With this in mind, the Office of Music Education of the Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the curriculum for secondary band, chorus, and orchestra with public performance as a vital element of each course. As part of the requirements for completion of these courses, students are expected to participate in a number of group performances each year.

Performances showcase the skills learned in daily rehearsals and give each student an opportunity to exhibit musical talent. Concerts, festivals, marching band shows, and other performance activities enhance student, school, and community life. Participation in quality group activities contributes significantly to the development of the student's sense of responsibility, as each ensemble member has an important role in the success of the group.

Accordingly, the administration of Chesapeake Public Schools has developed the following guidelines for grading middle and high school students enrolled in performance based music courses:

1. Students are required to attend any scheduled performance approved by the school principal. Adequate notice (two weeks or longer) of performance dates will be provided.
2. Excuses for an absence must be submitted by the parent or guardian in writing and approved by the student's principal or designee and music teacher prior to the performance. In the event of an emergency situation, a written note stating the reason for the unexpected absence must be submitted for approval by the principal and music teacher on the next school day. Make-up work for an excused absence will be assigned according to the individual school policy.
3. An unexcused absence from a performance may negatively impact the student's grade for the marking period.
4. An unexcused absence will be determined by school policy concerning attendance.

It is our hope that parents and families will not only emphasize to the student the importance of performance attendance but will also support the student by attending as many performances as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Chenault
Supervisor of Music Education
Chesapeake Public Schools