

North Scott Band Department

2nd Quarter "Cheat Sheet" for Parents

Lessons: Each student is required to do FIVE lessons this quarter (one of which must be the Scale/Arpeggio Lesson- see below). Those students studying privately on their primary band instrument will receive credit for THREE of those lessons by having their instructor fill out the LESSON VOUCHER. These may be found on the webpage under "Communications"

CONCERT WRITE-UPS: Students *may* elect to write a paper on a band concert they attend (must attend it during the current quarter), and that grade will take the place of one lesson. IT MUST BE A CONCERT THEY ARE NOT ALREADY PERFORMING IN and MUST FEATURE CONCERT BAND INSTRUMENTS. It should be 500 words, typed, and treated as an English paper. In other words, we will be not only grading on content, but also grammar, form, spelling, etc. They are to take notes at whichever concert they attend and include detailed, specific information about the performance. These reports must have substance, as they are taking the place of one band lesson. If there are any questions as to which concerts are acceptable, please call or email us. We have had some papers in the past that we have been unable to accept. This is an option we have provided for our students to not only help them get their lesson grades in, but also entice them to attend some outside concerts.

LESSON GUIDELINES:

Students are only allowed to come out of the same class twice per quarter to minimize the amount of time taken away from instruction.

Students can only sign up for one lesson per week.

Lessons are on the materials assigned in their LESSON BOOK, as well as band music.

If a lesson is missed due to a test or quiz in a class during that time, or an excused absence from school, the student is to see us immediately to schedule a time to make up that lesson.

Computer Assignments: Each student is required to do the following grade-specific computer assignments for the second quarter:

Freshman/New Members:	Volume 1, Units 2 and 3 (notice there are 2)
Sophomores:	Volume 2, Unit 8
Juniors:	Volume 2, Unit 12
Seniors:	Volume 3, Unit 16

These must be done in the music computer lab (the program is on the network) and can be done at any time between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm on school days. The scores from these assignments count as part of their lesson grade. **REMINDER: They can re-do the computer assignments as many times during the quarter as they want to improve their grade.** These scores count twice, giving the student SEVEN grades in the lesson/computer assignment category (5 lessons + 2 Comp)

HINT: If the students go through the lessons before taking the review, they have an opportunity to take notes. These notes may be then be used when they take the review. (In other words, they can do as well as they want- they just have to take the time!)

Scale/Arpeggio Lessons: These are required lessons, during which the students will play the assigned six scales (plus chromatic) from memory. The scale sheets are available on the web page (Communications)- just click on "Student Materials", scroll down to "Quarter Scale Sheets" and click on the current quarter next to the appropriate instrument. **IMPORTANT: These are not the scale sheets they used for auditions- the Quarter sheets have different scales, plus arpeggios.**

Pep Band: Students are required to attend FOUR pep band performances. The schedule has been chosen to avoid as many conflicts with other events/activities as possible. If any of the pep bands get canceled due to weather, we will alter the requirements accordingly to remain fair to the students. (NOTE: All double-headers will count as TWO). They will receive credit toward their Band Letter (see handbook on webpage) for every Pep Band performance they attend. For those involved in activities/sports with direct conflicts on Pep Band nights, we just ask that they let us know and attend as many as they are able to.

Understanding PowerSchool: Due to the nature of our lesson grading system, it is necessary for us to create a checkpoint for Mid-Term reports (halfway through the quarter). We will typically base those on 3 grades, which means they should either have 3 lessons in or a lesson (or 2) plus their computer assignments. After that, we will begin to plug zeros into the remaining grades they have yet to complete. (If you see a zero, please check the heading- that indicates that they have yet to complete that assignment/lesson.) This is not a scare tactic, but merely to show the students and parents what their grade will look like at the end of the quarter if they don't do anything else. The zeros will be replaced with grades as they complete them. Again, we are trying to eliminate any surprises and let parents know exactly what has to be done before the end of the quarter.

Semester Exams: The BAND Final will be based on material covered in the computer assignments for the 1st and 2nd Quarters, as well as some terms (available on the "Communications" page under "Student Materials/Semester Exam Materials"). The JAZZ BAND Final study guide and materials may be found in the same place.

Band Web Page: Please check the band webpage (www.nsband.com) if questions arise. Between the on-line handbook, the "communications" page (where most schedules, downloads, etc. are found) and the calendars, the web page provides 95% of the information parents need to stay on top of things in the band department. If questions are not answered via the webpage, please feel free to call us (Kessinger: 285-3316; McMann: 285-3317) or email us (bill.kessinger@north-scott.k12.ia.us, or mike.mcmann@north-scott.k12.ia.us)

2nd Quarter Band Events

*Required for all Band students

**Required for all Jazz Band students

Date	Event	Place	Time
10/22/2011	All State Auditions	Fairfield, IA	6:00 am departure
10/27/2011	Jazz Combo Jam Session	Mojo's Cafe	7:00 - 9:00 pm
11/4/2011	**Fall Jazz Concert w/ <i>Late Nite Blues Brothers</i>	Aud	6:45 pm
11/5/2011	Music Boosters "Pizza Day"	HS Commons	7:30 am
11/7/2011	Jazz 1 at National Honor Society Induction	Aud	6:30 pm
11/10/2011	Jazz Combo Jam Session	Mojo's	7:00 - 9:00 pm
11/17-11/19	All State Music Festival	Ames	
12/4/2011	*Winter Concert (Orchestra, Choir, Band)	Aud	1:30 pm
12/8/2011	Jazz Combo Jam Session	Mojo's Cafe	7:00 - 9:00 pm
12/20-12/22	Final Exams (No specific schedule yet)		