

Summit Hill Elementary School

Nancy J. Murphy, Principal _ Don Webb, Assistant Principal

GENERAL MUSIC IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Classroom music is taught by music specialists in all elementary schools. The students receive one 45-minute class per week. General music is a curricular subject for which students receive grades.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Instruction in instrumental music is offered in the fourth and fifth grades of all Fulton County elementary schools. Beginning instruction is offered in the fourth and 2nd year intermediate instruction is offered in fifth grade. Beginning instruction in 5th grade is offered where time is available within a school's schedule. Students receive instruction on the instruments that are commonly found in band and orchestra. Classes are offered twice per week in forty-five minute sessions. Various performance opportunities, including school assemblies and PTA meetings, may occur at various times during the year. Band and orchestra are curricular subjects for which students receive grades.

GRADING ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM MUSIC

Elementary school music teachers will issue grades to all classes. These grades shall reflect State Standards and Local Board of Education Policies. Teachers will teach toward the objectives outlined in Fulton County Board of Education Policy IB, their grade and subject matter scope-and-sequence charts, State and National standards, and their curriculum guides.

A. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBJECT GRADE IN GENERAL MUSIC K - 5

Elementary music specialists are allotted 45 minutes of instructional time for each class once a week for eighteen weeks per semester. There are usually less than 18 lessons for each class because of assemblies, holidays, and the like.

For elementary general music, a semester grade is based on a minimum of 9 grades. These grades assess content learning by indicating the degree to which the student has fulfilled the intent of the state standards addressed in the music class.

Grade reports are given four times each year for general music students. These grades are for the 9-week and 18-week grading periods each semester. Kindergarten and first grade students receive S, N, or U for grades and S, N, or U for conduct. Second grade through fifth grade students receive A, B, C or F for grades and S, N, or U for conduct. If a student has attended fewer than four classes in any grading period, he or she should receive NG for both the grade and conduct.

1. Grades may be based on the following:

- quizzes and tests
- oral responses to questions
- teacher observation
- student demonstration (performance assessment)
- class participation
- extra projects
- respecting music as a subject, evidenced by use of knowledge about music
- caring for and responsible use of instruments and materials
- following directions, when the process is indicative of content knowledge
- completing/following through on assignments
- distinguishing self in contributing to group work and discussions
- (teacher) observing for student understanding

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- (teacher) "interviewing" individuals or small groups of students for comprehension
2. Regardless of how many or how few (no less than 9) grades are actually recorded in the grade book - every music teacher must be able to justify the report card grade of every student, even if the grade is an "A". The music teacher must maintain a grade book.
 3. While a clear oral explanation of grading procedures for students is sufficient, teachers are encouraged to provide information to parents regarding grading procedures.
 4. Teachers cannot use grades as rewards or punishment, nor can grades be awarded for behaviors not related to the subject objectives. The *conduct grade* distinguishes concerns of behavior from assessment.

GRADING ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Elementary instrumental music teachers will issue grades to all classes. These grades shall reflect Georgia Department of Education standards, Fulton County Music Education curriculum Board of Education policies. Teachers will teach toward the instrumental music objectives aligned with Fulton County Board of Education Policy IB, as well as Music Education curriculum guides. A grade of A-B-C-F will be entered in the space provided on the report card. Teachers will devise an evaluation so that a minimum of six experiences will show grades in the roll book. Teachers may devise numbering systems which they then could translate into letter grades. Teachers must keep records in order to justify and explain grades given. Each grade must be logically defensible to an inquiring parent.

From Fulton County Grading Policy- Descriptor Code IHA, Grading and Reporting:

“Teachers should use a variety of ongoing, developmentally appropriate methods to measure student progress such as tests, exams, rubrics, quizzes, projects, reports, homework, class participation and other assignments. Teachers should use their own judgment in determining how much weight to give each graded activity.”

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