

OHS Band Absence Guidelines

Absences from performances and dress rehearsals are severely detrimental to student musical organizations. Preparation time that may be counted in weeks could be wasted by having student absences that create performance problems, and could result in an inadequate performance. The musical qualities of blend, balance, musicality, and performance ease can be seriously jeopardized. When one member is missing, all are affected. The absence of one student could destroy a performance.

As such, absences from outside rehearsals and performances are viewed by conductors as extremely harmful to the music group and are discouraged as strongly as possible. It is also recognized that extenuating circumstances sometimes arise, and must be treated with compassion and understanding. Each absence will be treated individually by the teacher involved, and will follow the following guidelines.

Criteria for excused absences from performances and/or outside school rehearsals are as follows:

- A. Death in the immediate family. A signed note from the student's parent/guardian will be required upon the student's return and other documentation of the attended event.
- B. Severe illness of the student. A signed note from the student's doctor and parent/guardian will be required upon the student's return.
- C. Extenuating circumstances (situations such as conflicts with other OHS school activities/games or other director approved once in a lifetime circumstances, such as the wedding of a sibling). These are cases where teachers, coaches, students and parents should be able to resolve the conflicts with appropriate scheduling. These conflicts must be communicated with at least two weeks notice so that ample time is available to resolve the calendar conflict and make ensemble adjustments as needed. Failure to notify your director of a conflict in a timely manner could result in lowering of grade or loss of performance position. Students are expected to be at rehearsal whenever possible. In general:
 - i. Conflicts with two practices should be split
 - ii. Conflicts with performances/OHS school activities/games and practices – students should go to their concert/OHS game/match/event and attend whatever part of practice that they can whenever possible.
 - iii. Conflicts with band performances and OHS school activities/games - teachers, coaches, parents and students should work together to resolve the conflict.

Conflicts outside of the attendance policy will not be excused.

With appropriate planning and communication involving teachers, parents, students, advisors, coaches and employers, scheduling conflicts should be resolved.

In the case of an *excused absence* from a musical event, a make-up assignment will be offered to the students who follow up with the director and complete the assignment within one week of the student returning to school. This make up assignment will be to perform the music from the performance as advised by the director unless otherwise indicated by the director involved. The individual performance will be graded using the MSBOA rubric and the final score will be the student's grade. Students who wish to get a higher score may retake their playing test as needed for the remainder of that performance cycle. All assignments must be completed within one week of the missed event. **Students with unexcused absences will not be given a make-up assignment.** Unexcused absences from performances and rehearsals may result in the lowering of the grade.