

## ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GRADING

Your grade in band is based on three things: **attendance, preparation, and attitude**. All of these are vital to efficient rehearsals.

### A. Attendance

1. Your grade is determined by the number of unexcused absences you accrue during the semester. The third unexcused absence and each succeeding unexcused absence will lower your grade by one letter.
2. For an absence to be considered excused, you must present either a doctor's written statement, a written statement from the Dean of Student Leadership, or schedule a conference with Dr. Gilbert prior to an anticipated absence.
3. Every band function will begin with a roll check. If you are not in your seat, you will be considered absent. If you arrive late, **it is the responsibility of the individual to see that the absence is changed to a tardy.**
4. Three unexcused late arrivals constitute one unexcused absence.
5. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade and may result in immediate removal from the band.

### B. Preparation

1. The individual preparation of music is crucial to the success of our performances. Music and flip folders are issued to be used. We need everyone playing the correct notes at the correct time. Do not play at rehearsals or performances by memory unless you are prepared to play your music by memory for the director. This is particularly true for the Tiger Pep Band. Do not fake. Do not guess.
2. You will be given ample opportunity to learn the music of each concert. It is the responsibility of each member to perfect the details of music preparation for their part. Rehearsal time is best utilized for solving ensemble problems (balance, blend, precision, uniformity), not individual problems (learning to play fast passages, tone quality).
3. The possession of all necessary equipment at each band function is vital to your performance and preparation. You will not be considered present without your equipment.
4. The band uniform and concert dress is something you should always wear with pride. Participation in the program and the uniform that comes with participation is a privilege. The care and maintenance of these garments should be a priority. **It is the responsibility of each band member to keep each part of the uniform and concert dress clean and well-pressed.** Details of appropriate uniform and concert dress are outlined in the *Performance Dress* section (page 15) of this handbook.

5. The director will lower any band member's grade who does not meet the standards of preparation, as outlined. Any band member considered delinquent in preparation will be given one warning before the grade is lowered by a letter grade at the second occurrence of delinquent preparation.

### C. Attitude

1. A positive attitude is necessary for each band member to perform up to their fullest potential. The director assumes that each band member is in band to fulfill their potential, support the organization, represent Doane College in a professional manner, and have fun.

2. In order for any person to fulfill their potential, they must be willing to work. Our rehearsal and performance situations will be physically and mentally demanding. **Come expecting to be challenged to improve.**

3. Supporting the football team requires attention to the game and *esprit de corps* from the band. When the band plays in the stands, everyone plays and everyone stands to play our school song. We have an important entertainment and spirit function at games. It is each band member's responsibility to contribute to that function at all times.

4. As a member of the band, you represent Doane College anytime you are in uniform or with the band away from campus. The policies regarding personal conduct contained in the Student Handbook and tour etiquette should be adhered to at all times.

5. Band should be fun for every member! It is the intent of the director to be specific about policies and procedures so that each band member can be in a position of knowing what is expected from them. Band cannot be fun unless the group, as a whole, is able to reach its potential and fulfill its mission within the college.

6. Band members whose attitude toward band is a detriment to the success of the program will be removed from the band. Students who receive scholarship money and who have a poor attitude may lose their funding.

### D. Other policies regarding conduct in the band.

1. Alcohol Policy: Alcohol, even in small amounts, can impair fine motor coordination, which is important for optimal musical performance. Band members should refrain from alcohol consumption prior to any rehearsal or performance. Inebriation at any band event will not be tolerated. While on tour, the band represents the college at all times – traveling, performing, and at the hotels and home-stays. Therefore, all band members are to refrain from drinking alcohol when touring. This policy alleviates any misunderstanding about what is acceptable or unacceptable, what is appropriate or inappropriate. This policy minimizes the need for the director to closely monitor student behavior.

Students who violate the no alcohol policy may face any or all of the following penalties.

- a. Sent home from the trip.
- b. A failing grade.
- c. Loss of scholarship.
- d. Removal from the band program.

This policy also applies to all illegal substances.