

Dear Band Parents and Students,

“Success comes to those who work for it.” This letter is to inform you of the grading policy on the **scale and drum rudiment pass-offs** that are required for the 2008-2009 school year. The scale/rudiments pass-off dates are listed in the packet of information you are receiving. These dates are listed for the complete school year so that there is no confusion as to what is due, or when it's due.

The students are allowed to pass-off the scales/rudiments in any order as long as they keep to the deadline dates. For example, if Bb Concert scale is due on January 29th and Eb Concert scale is due on February 27th then the students are welcome to go on and pass-off the Eb Concert scale as long as they don't miss the deadline date for Bb Concert. If the scales/rudiments are passed off by the deadline date, then the student will receive a 100 for the grade. For each **WEEK that the scale is late there is a 5 point deduction** from their grade. That is only 5 points per week, not day. And, the lowest grade that is ever given for any scale/rudiment that is passed off is an 80. Now **if the student does not pass-off the scale/rudiment by the deadline date, then the student receives a “0”** for the grade until the scale/rudiment is completed. Once the scale/rudiment is passed off, the grade will be changed in the grade book. But please understand, if the scale/rudiment isn't passed off before my deadline date to turn in grades to the office for report cards, then the grade WILL NOT be changed. Please remember that scale and rudiment pass-offs are 20% of your student's grade. This is why it is imperative for your student to pass-off the scales/rudiments on time.

The students are given plenty of opportunities to pass-off scales/rudiments. Students are allowed to pass-off after class everyday. With the amount of time during class changes, students usually have time to pass-off a scale or rudiment after class, provided they have practiced it. I have offered the students the opportunity to schedule after school time as long as it is scheduled in advance. Because Mr. Faires and I both work at the high school as well, we have to schedule after school time in advance. So please be mindful of that as you and your student are planning your times for the upcoming year. We also encourage the students that are having trouble with the scales/rudiments to please ask questions. We have found that sometimes middle school aged students are sometimes afraid to ask questions, so please help encourage your child as well. We will be glad to help them understand

how to read their scale/rudiment sheets, and to be sure they understand the fingerings or slide positions (for trombones) for the notes they have to play.

Please understand, this is not a test grade, this grade is placed under the scale/rudiment pass-off grade portion of the grading scale. Please also understand that all scales and rudiments must be passed off in order to continue to the next level of band.

Thank you so much for your time and support!!

Stephanie Tomberlin
stephanie.tomberlin@ucps.k12.nc.us

Ian Faires
ian.faires@ucps.k12.nc.us

Director of Bands
Porter Ridge Middle/High Schools