**GRADING POLICY**

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Orchestra is considered an academic subject at the middle school. It is not a club. Most students choose to stay in the orchestra the entire year, but orchestra consists of two half year classes. In the fall, students may try playing in the orchestra and have until October first to decide if they wish to participate. After October first, your child will be expected to continue until the end of the first semester. At the end of the first semester if your child does not wish to continue, a written note should be turned in to Miss Ashley or the child’s guidance counsellor.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at lessons, rehearsals and concert are critical to your child’s success. Children must attend a designated number of lessons per quarter (usually 7) based on the length of the quarter. Students who must miss a lesson due to a **major unit test** should make up the missed music lesson as soon as possible. Students should attend all lessons and rehearsals even if their instrument is out for repair or forgotten. They can still participate in many important ways (fingering along, saying the names of the notes out loud, counting and clapping the rhythms, etc.) **Attendance at lessons and rehearsal is 70 percent of the grade.**

There will be three playing tests per quarter. Students should practice on average three times a week to successfully perform their playing tests.

Group Lessons

Instrumental students will have a lesson once per week. All lessons are taught on a “Rotating Schedule”. This means that a student will come to an assigned lesson once per week during a different period each week.

Because of the rotation schedule, students should have no problem making up work in any subject area. It is the student’s responsibility to make up work in his/her classroom. Students are to speak to their subject teacher prior to each lesson and make arrangements to make up any work missed.

The most important part of the program is the rotating in-school lessons; this is where the teaching of how to play and improve on the instrument takes place. As long as your child comes to the in-school lessons he will do well on his instrument the report card.