



LT COL STEVEN GRIMO
Commander
USAF Band of Mid-America
Scott Air Force Base

Be Creative & Take A Chance Use A Contract To Grade Your Students



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Band of Mid-America

**BE CREATIVE AND TAKE A CHANCE
USE A CONTRACT TO GRADE YOUR STUDENTS**

Lt Col STEVEN GRIMO, Commander
USAF Band of Mid America

The Contract Grading System

This system of grading allows a student to gain first hand experience learning about music through areas of most interest. Each student will be asked to file a contract stating the grade and projects to be completed. From that point, independent study projects may be chosen from several categories. Each quarter a student will be graded on overall performance in rehearsals, concert performance, lesson reports and independent study projects.

Contract requirements:

- A = 4 projects per quarter (plus rehearsal and concert performance, lesson reports, conduct, effort and musicianship)
- B = 3 projects per quarter (plus)
- C = 2 projects per quarter (plus)

Each project will be graded and must maintain an average of the contracted grade. If an independent project does not meet standards, the student will be asked to repeat the project. There will be two due dates each quarter to turn in selected projects. One after the first four weeks of the quarter and the other two weeks before the quarter ends.

A student may choose from any category as well as more than one project from any list. Students may also suggest new projects to be added to any particular category. If a student feels they have a particular project that they wished to be considered toward their contract, it may be presented to the band or choral director for approval.

Independent Study Projects

Performance:

1. Perform a solo piece for the class or in a recital program.
2. Take an audition outside of school for a festival or select performing ensemble.
3. Participate in a music festival.
4. Participate in a long term performing ensemble other than in school (church choir, community band, select youth ensemble, youth orchestra, etc.)
5. Artist in Residence program or private lessons (progress reports must be submitted by teacher and graded)
6. Projects in creativity - Perform an original composition.
7. Participate in a Broadway musical - in or out of school.

Research:

1. Write a short paper about a composer or professional musician to include: life, music, and style period.
2. Write program notes for two or more selections on a concert given by the music department. Include composer biography, discussion about the music, form and style.
3. Read and prepare program not at a concert.
4. Bulletin Board Project - organize and decorate a bulletin board with a musical theme for a two week period. (no more than two people working together on this project.)
5. Build a music instrument, wooden flute, percussion instrument, etc.
6. Concert Review - Attend a concert, return a program with a short report describing your feeling about the performance.
7. Book Review - Read a book from the book list and write a report to include subject description and opinion.
8. Record Review - Same as attending a concert, include titles, composers, style, and opinion of performance. You must use two contrasting recordings.
9. Read three articles from a Musical Periodical Magazine, or a newspaper, and write a report including subject and opinion.
10. Present any report to the ensemble as a brief presentation.
11. Research a piece of music on an upcoming performance and present an oral report to the ensemble.
12. Prepare a flow chart analysis of a specific composition, a comparative analysis of one or more structural elements in two different compositions or a harmonic analysis of a short movement of an extended work.
13. Research a project on acoustics relating to a given performance in an auditorium of related to your instrument.

Teaching:

1. Explain a problem on you instrument (ex: fingering, intonation, etc.)
2. Explain diction for a particular choral work.
3. Bowings for your section on a particular piece of music.
4. Coaching elementary students (a report of what was taught to the student must be submitted each week.)
5. Coach a fellow band or choral member on his music for an upcoming concert.
6. Correct test - (theory workbooks)

Conducting and Leadership:

1. Attend after school conducting workshops and work with the band or chorus as a conductor in rehearsal of performance.
2. Act as a section coach for the concert band, prep band, concert chorus, prep chorus.
3. Serve on the music council.
4. Section leader, arrange sectionals and rehearse passages from music to be performed on the next concert.
5. Serve as librarian for your ensemble.
6. Help for a festival such as District Auditions, Jazz Festival, All-State, etc.
7. Keep charts and records, for each ensemble you may be a member of. (Keep historical records, make reports to school newspaper, public relations, tickets, posters, fundraising activities, etc.)

Composing and Arranging:

1. Write a solo piece for your instrument of vocal range. Experiment with sound possibilities on your instrument. Try to produce as many different and unusual sound effects on your instrument. Be prepared to demonstrate your sound creations in class. Invent your own notation symbols to represent the sounds you have created.
2. Compose a larger work using these new sounds and notations for duet, trio, or quartet.
3. Write a melody and duet part.
4. Write a discant to a familiar folk melody.
5. Arrange a madrigal for recorder, woodwind, or brass quartet or quintet.
6. Prepare and create costumes for a set performance. (such as a Madrigal Dinner)
7. Experiment with electronic music, write a piece for electronic tape and your instrument.
8. Choreograph ñ prepare dance and staging for a performance.
9. Write a solo piece for electronic tape.
10. Write a piece for hand clapping only.

Other:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

"A great teacher never strives to explain his vision - He simply invites you stand beside him and see for yourself." - Rev. R. Inman

Other Thoughts and Possibilities for your program

1. Concert Program options.
 - A concert in the round
 - Desert Concert (performance with food served)
 - Use of Patron Passes
 - Madrigal Dinner
 - Octoberfest, music & food
 - Have punch and cookies after each concert.

1. Tour Packages - Work with your language departments, also use of graphic arts resource.

2. Use of a weekly announcement sheet or newsletter.

3. Networking - listening and talking to your fellow music directors/ sharing and caring

Think About It!!!

"America's future will be determined by the home and school. The child becomes largely what he or she is taught, hence we must watch what we teach and how we live before it." - *Jane Addams, American social worker and Nobel Peace Laureate (1869-1935)*

Being a Teacher!!!!

"Remember, teaching is the most difficult job in the world. If you don't find it difficult, you're not teaching."

- Learn the names of your students
- Make rules clear from day one
- Teach to students strengths
- Be nice to your students, the memory of your kindness will last longer than the subject you are teaching. They will remember the teacher, not the subject
- Don't talk too much, keep your students involved, point them in a direction
- Avoid trivial pursuit - the short cut, Information without understanding create depth and understanding
- Go into teaching with an open mind
- Avoid the teacher room stereotype of students. Let each student begin your class with a clean slate.
- Seek out a mentor, a fellow teacher you can talk too and share ideas and concerns with. Someone you can go to for advice.
- Networking/ personally, spiritually, and professionally.