

Dear Band Parents & Students

At the urging of HMS administration in order to keep students more current and up-to-date in class assignment grades (in this case band lessons), we have implemented a policy of assigning a “*staff* managed referral” for each of a student’s third and fourth missed band lessons each quarter – notification of which will be sent to parents via email. Upon their fifth and sixth missed lessons, students will receive an “*office* managed referral”, which carries additional consequences until missed lessons are made up.

We started implementing this policy in the 2012-2013 school year with positive results. The intention is to nudge band students into staying more current with their lesson attendance before it becomes too late in a quarter to effectively fulfill their lesson requirements for the term. That requirement, again, is to attend six (20-minute) lessons in a nine-week quarter. Missing 3 or more will require a student to schedule make-up lessons with his/her lesson teacher outside their regularly-scheduled time. These may occur during or outside the school day.

The vast majority of band students will *not* be affected by this policy. We wish to continue to emphasize the importance of regular lesson attendance, which along with regular home practice will help to assure continued pedagogical growth and development of our young music students. Please feel free to share your questions and concerns with us. Thank you for your continued support of music at HMS.