

How a Student Earns His/Her Music Grade

Most believe, incorrectly, that music assessment is objective. Lack of physical evidence, like worksheets or written tests, does not mean that assessment is reliant upon the personal feelings or tastes of the assessor. In addition, some incorrectly believe the Music grade is related to student behavior or participation.

Music assessment and student evaluation at Darnell Elementary School is based on each student's performance of the CCSD Music Objectives and Grade Level Expectations that are aligned with the Nevada State Standards. In most cases, a master copy of a rubric or a checklist is used and the score is put into Infinite Campus.

The CCSD Music Curriculum is designed so that with regular participation all students regardless of skill or talent will meet the grade level standards by the end of the year. All students learn differently and it may take some students longer than others to find success.

The only representation of the Homeroom Progress Report is a single letter (E, S, or N) and a percentage. This is not an accurate picture of the work your child does in the Music Room. Parents must check the Infinite Campus Portal (<http://ccsd.net/parents/infinite-campus-choice.php>) for accurate information.

GRADE CATEGORIES and WEIGHTS:

- Experience – activities and classwork – make up 20% of the final score.
- Formative – assignments and skill quizzes – make up 30% of the final score.
- Summative – tests and large projects – make up 50% of the final score.

The LETTER GRADE and ITS MEANING:

The ESN Scale is not comparative to the ABC scale and should not be compared as such. The letters exist to give parents an overall picture of where their child is currently performing with regards to the CCSD Music Standards.

CCSD E-S-N Scale		
The Letter Grade:	What it Means:	Percentage:
E=Excellent	Exceeds Standards	90-100%
S=Satisfactory	Meeting or Approaching Standards	60-89%
N=Unsatisfactory	Below Standards	0-59%

INFINITE CAMPUS ASSIGNMENTS:

This year, in an effort to make sure students receive the grades they earn, all assignments are placed under the state standard #1. This will prevent some assignments or tests being weighted heavier than others.

Assignment titles start with the CCSD standard number(s), are followed by the assignment title, and end with the week that the grade was taken.

CCSD 4-Point Scale	Possible Descriptors
<p>4 points <i>Student performs above the grade level standard as written</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in performance of the music standard the entire time • Attempts, creates, and experiments with concepts and skills beyond what is written in the grade level standard • Assists classmates who are having trouble or demonstrates leadership of the skill
<p>3 points <i>Student performs at the grade level standard as written</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently performs the music standard in its entirety • Performs with minimal to no mistakes • Completes the performance without aid
<p>2 points <i>Student performs below the grade level standard as written, but can perform at the grade level standard with assistance</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs the grade level standard some of the time • Performs below grade level • Inconsistently demonstrates key skill • Cannot complete without aid
<p>1 point <i>Student performs below the grade level standard with assistance</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs the standard one grade level or more below than the grade level • Cannot demonstrate the standard as written, as taught and practiced in class • Performance is missing two or more key skills

ABOUT GRADING:

Grades are taken every four to six times they are in the classroom. Most of these scores are measurements of progress (formative). You will also see assignments labeled as summative, meaning they are a final evaluation of student achievement. The resulting score is put into Infinite Campus.

Summative assignments are graded for accuracy. Summative assignments assess the student's progress on grade level standards. Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Formative work is at the student's instructional level.

In addition, the semester grade may be modified for the following reasons:

- The student's grade does not demonstrate the level of growth that has actually occurred (on recurring standard assessments).
- At the end of each trimester, the following will be taken into account for students who earn an Unsatisfactory grade (signified by the letter N in the ESN scale):
 - Student participates with an effort to learn and is making adequate yearly progress.
 - Student cooperates in the learning environment, allowing peers to learn, and works collectively with classmates in an academic setting.

GRADING POLICIES:

- CCSD scoring rubrics and grade scales are used at all times.
- Students whose letter grade is an N or in danger of an N at the time of the UNSAT deadline will take home a Progress Report to accompany their UNSAT Notice.
- Students who are frequently absent will not be physically present to learn and practice the music lesson objectives prior to the assessment date. In most cases, their grade (averaged by the electronic grade book) will result in a poor reflection on their understanding of the curriculum.
- Students that cause interruption to instruction or who cannot work with peers in a cooperative environment will be given an alternate assignment to completed in an alternate location for a grade.