

Band Skill Rating Chart (Beginning Winds)

	7	8	9	10
Note Reading (10x3)	You understand the musical alphabet, and can name the notes on the staff. You are able to read and play the correct notes in less than 3 weeks.	You are able to read and play the correct notes in less than 2 weeks.	You can read and play the correct notes in 2 or 3 practice sessions.	You can read notes correctly the first or second time through a piece of music.
Sound (10x3)	You have a solid sound, but it is often weak or harsh.	You have a solid sound which is only weak or harsh when playing higher or lower notes, or louder and softer sounds, on your instrument.	Your sound is solid, and almost never harsh or weak, but does not yet have a singing quality.	You sound like a young professional. Your sound has a singing quality, with no weakness or harshness from low notes to high notes, as well as loud to soft.
Pronunciation (10x3)	You can pronounce “too” at the beginning of each note.	You are able to pronounce “too” at the beginning of each note, and your notes are at least close to being connected.	You have excellent “too’s” or “da’s” and are able to connect your notes at all times. You are also able to play short notes without interrupting your airflow. You can play and read most articulation markings (slurs, staccato, legato, etc.) with connected airflow and a confident sound.	You have excellent “too’s” or “da’s” and are able to connect your notes at all times. You are also able to play short notes without interrupting your airflow. You can play and read all articulation markings (slurs, staccato, legato, etc.) with connected airflow and a confident sound.
Rhythm Reading (10x1)	You are able to learn, understand, and accurately perform assigned rhythms, but it can take you longer than 2 weeks to do so. You may rush or slow down, or occasionally skip beats and rests.	You understand, and can accurately perform, assigned rhythms in less than 2 weeks, but may rush or slow down.	You understand, and can accurately perform, assigned rhythms in 2 or 3 practice sessions, and play them without rushing or slowing down.	You read rhythms perfectly the first or second time through a piece of music, without rushing or slowing down.

Understanding The Categories (Beginner Winds)

Note Reading

This rating measures your ability name and play notes on the musical staff. Students with prior musical training have a big advantage here. 1st and 2nd year players need to be very patient and persistent while learning this skill. It can take 2 - 3 years of practice to become a proficient note reader. Do you know the musical alphabet? Do you understand the clef? Do you need a fingering chart for your instrument? Try not to write in the names of the notes. Writing note names can help some people for awhile, however, if you always write the note names in, you will never become a good reader.

Sound

No matter how well you can play the notes, if you have a poor tone, your performance is going to suffer. A good sound is straight and full. A great tone has a singing quality. Good pronunciation will improve your tone. Practice with a friend who has a high tone rating, and copy that sound. If you're a first year player, use your CD constantly. Work on your "too's" and "da's". Are they defined and connected?

Pronunciation

This skill is essential to playing a wind instrument well. Your tones should sound like a person singing "Daaaahh", or "Tooooo". Notes should be connected and defined. When your sound is "pronounced" correctly, your instrument is much easier to play. If your other ratings are pretty good, but this one is low, you will probably add 15 or 20 points to your overall rating by improving your pronunciation.

Rhythm Reading

This rating measures your ability to read and understand note values, like quarter, eighth, sixteenth, and half notes, along with the rests for each note value. Understanding time signatures is also a part of this score for older students. It is helpful to practice "slashing" the beats in each measure. Practicing with a metronome can also be helpful.