

PRACTICE HINTS FOR PARENTS

**Why Practice?*

Individual practice is an essential element of learning an instrument and becoming a confident musician.

Every student in band is expected to practice regularly every week.

For students, the benefit of practicing is to become proficient on their instrument. Practicing at *regular intervals* also helps them build and maintain the muscles needed to play their specific instrument.

Honestly, the better they play their instrument, the more fun band is!

**What if my child doesn't practice?*

If your child isn't practicing, they aren't doing their homework for band.

If your child doesn't practice, they will fall behind in band and likely not find as much fulfillment out of playing.

**What if my child practices, but doesn't sound very good?*

The key word is....**yet!**

It doesn't sound good yet because your child is still developing the fundamental techniques and muscles to make a good sound.

It will get much better very soon, but only if they keep working on the skills assigned to them to practice.

Keep encouraging your child. Feel free to laugh with them when their instrument sounds like a sick elephant!

But, please make a point to let your child know when you hear their sound improving! They will improve *if* they keep playing!

**In order to help your child be successful, here's what you do:*

1. **Create a good practice environment** where your child can concentrate, avoiding as many distractions as possible.
2. Set aside a specific time for your child to practice. **You only need to set aside 15 minutes, 3 times a week. (Ex. Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday)** Setting a schedule helps your child know that practicing is important (and fun!). If your child wants to play longer than the assigned times - let them! They (and you) will be rewarded with amazing sounds in the future!
3. **Private lessons are not a requirement but are encouraged.** A student who receives individual instruction will generally progress better than those who do not. Please let me know if you would like help finding a private instructor for your child.

Practice Expectations and Logistics

- 1. Students must practice at least 45 minutes each week, on 3 different days of the week for 15 minutes each day.**
- 2. Record practice times on their *Practice Log* and have a parent/guardian confirm their practice by signing it each week. These logs need to be brought to rehearsal each week.**
- 3. Students are required to bring their instrument (plus all necessary accessories), their music, and a music stand to rehearsal on each day they have band. It is impossible to participate in band without the proper equipment.**
- 4. Learning an instrument takes time, effort, and commitment. If, after following all the above guidelines, they feel they have chosen the wrong instrument to play, please contact Mrs. Uden to talk about switching to a different instrument.**