

Getting Students to Practice

Practice Logs should be used as a tool by parents to encourage routine practicing at home. Home practice is homework for band class and should be completed on a routine basis, not all at once. The best method is to help the student schedule a time during the evening that is set aside for practicing. Ultimately, students should practice 20-30 minutes everyday as the consistency is what helps to improve the student's playing ability. Even though the student may fight you a little, once they start playing the instrument, most of them will enjoy the temporary release from other academics.

Finally, we would all like the students to be intrinsically motivated to practice, however in the beginning they may need some extrinsic motivation in the form of some type of reward that you have agreed upon.

What Should I Practice?

1. Mouthpieces:

- Brass players should work on the buzzing siren, and play simple melodies on their mouthpiece only.
- Woodwinds should practice holding their mouthpiece sound steady for 8 seconds, 12 seconds, 16 seconds, etc.

2. Long Tones:

- Students should work to hold various pitches on their instrument for 8, seconds, 12, seconds, 16 seconds, etc.

3. Major Scales

- 7th and 8th grade students should be able to play 7 Major scales with arpeggios
- 6th grade students should have 6 notes by the end of September, 8 notes by the end of November, and 3 scales by May.

4. Lip Slurs

- Brass players should play lip slurs on a daily basis. Lip slurs are series of notes that do not change positions or fingerings, and the notes are not articulated.

5. "Essential Elements" method books

- Students usually have a few exercises they should be working on in their method books

6. Literature

- 7th and 8th grade students should have 2-3 pieces of music in their Literature section that they should be able to perform all parts
- 6th grade students usually receive their first sheet music near the end of September and then they should also have 2-3 pieces of music.
- Solo & Ensemble music

Private Lessons

If possible please schedule private lessons! Private lessons help the student perform better in class and at concerts, but also improves their self-esteem and confidence and ability to perform in front of an audience. The students also learn valuable techniques that are more specific to their instrument.

GMS Band Recommended Private Lesson Instructors

1. Flute

- Janine Jones, Osceola Magnet: 564-5847
- Ashlynd Leighton, Dodgertown Elementary: 564-4138

2. Oboe

- Sara Fletcher: 563-2820
- Cristen Dees: 473-9279

3. Clarinet

- Jennifer Royals, Master's Academy: 564-2945
- Bill Bush, Melody Music: 567-6200

4. Saxophone

- Bill Bush, Melody Music: 567-6200
- Jennifer Royals, Master's Academy: 564-2945

5. Percussion

- Brandon Putzke, Liberty Magnet: 778-2762
- Ron Hughes: 772-713-4540