

My Practicing Statement

Name _____ Class Period _____

Practice

Playing a musical instrument is a physical activity, and like any physical activity, the body needs repetition for strengths and accuracy. Every musician uses tiny muscles in his/her mouth (or the hand muscles for percussionists) and those muscles need conditioning – an act that merits **daily repetition**.

Along with these muscles, daily practice helps with the student's accuracy. Ability could be defined as being able to duplicate, without mistake, over and over again. Daily practice helps students become more accurate in playing the intended note.

Where to Practice

Since practicing involves hearing, reading and focusing, it is best to practice in a place with the least amount of distractions possible. It is best to use a music stand to practice from.

When to Practice

When to practice is not nearly as important as setting a practice schedule for each day. Decide the best time for practice and stick to your schedule. Even during busy times, a few minutes at least can keep the muscles in shape as well as the instrument. Musical instruments get better the more they're played. The worse way to treat an instrument is to leave it in its case.

What to Practice

Warm Ups: mouthpiece practice, long tones, lip slurs, etc.

Scales: All Major and chromatic. All 13 scales must be passed off every 6 weeks.

Music: Band Music, Solo and Ensemble music, Private Lesson Music, Band Book, etc.

Play: Something enjoyable, just for fun!

How to Practice

1. Break down each phrase into rhythms and notes.
2. Practice each rhythm on a single pitch.
3. Find all accidentals and think through each rhythm.
4. Put together the rhythm and notes.
5. Put each measure together.
6. Put each phrase together.
7. Put each section together.
8. Add style, dynamics, phrasing, etc.

True practicing does not occur until after a piece is learned. Do not quit after playing something once without mistakes. Only after a piece is without mistakes should it be played over and over again multiple times.

_____ Yes, my child is practicing and working on the objectives assigned in class.

_____ No, my child is not practicing.

Parent Signature _____

Student's Signature _____

Due: 9/19/07, 10/31/07, 12/19/07, 2/13/08, 4/2/08, 5/14/08

