

Practice Expectations

Now that students have an instrument, they need to begin practicing their playing regularly. This will build their skills and help them continue to sound better!

Please help your student find a quiet place to practice. They will need a music stand so they can play with proper posture. If you need a stand please contact me, as you can rent one for the year for \$5. Students may choose to sit down or stand to practice. [Here is a sample timeline for a practice session.](#)

They are required to practice 80 minutes each week. It is best to practice at least four days each week so skills can be reviewed and strengthened often. Please help him/her keep track of how many minutes are practiced each day. After each practice session, write down the minutes on the correct box on the practice sheet. It is labeled like a calendar with the week beginning on Mondays.

Students may practice during extended care. The adult who heard them practice may initial that day's box. Parents will still need to sign the sheet each week to help monitor practice time and therefore the band grade.

Practice sheets are due on the first school day of each week. In order to get credit for the minutes, each week needs to be totalled **AND signed by a parent/guardian.** After I enter the time in the gradebook I will put a checkmark in the final column of the row to show the score was entered.

Practice sheets should be kept in the band binder with all other band items. You may keep it in a pocket so it is easy to access. If you lose the practice sheet you can print another one from the bottom of this document, from the Band Class Website or get one from the bulletin board outside the band room.

Beginners will be given a few weeks to get this process down, then homework policy notes will be sent home for those who don't turn in the sheet on time.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What should my student be practicing?** Students are given a weekly assignment either at their weekly small group lesson or in large group band rehearsal. Look for circled assignments in the lesson book and written assignment on the practice sheet.
- 2. What if my student is sick/absent and can't complete the full 80 minutes?** Students may earn up to 20 extra points each week. This means they have practiced 100 minutes in a week. I keep track of the extra minutes and apply them to each student's score *only if the minutes are needed*. Students can accrue extra points each week to "save up" for a time when they might be sick or have a particularly busy week at home. A student can slowly re-earn the minutes they missed over the course of a quarter.

4th Grade Practice Minutes

This sheet is due the first school day of each week.

Name	Total Minutes	Parent Signature	Date Signed

This week's assignment:

My Goals:

Directions:

1. Write the number of minutes you practiced not counting class and lesson time this week.
2. Put the number of minutes in the correct box according to the date.
3. Put an X in the box for days you didn't practice (not counting band class and lessons).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday