



# Home Practice Resources

Here are some strategies and resources students can use in their home practice to help them grow and improve. Whether it's about keeping a steady practice schedule or some tips on what to do when practicing, here are some helpful suggestions:

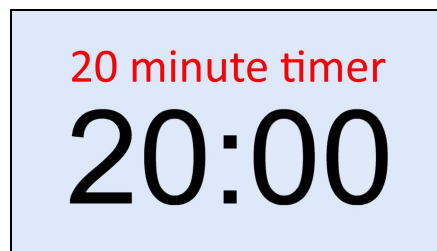
## Resources

- 1) Keep a weekly log of how many times you practice (20 minutes a night, 4-5 nights a week). Check off the days you achieve your practice goal. Call it a Practice Log. Just like you do your homework for other classes, homework for your instrument is playing it regularly and preparing your parts for band or lesson.

Weekly Practice Record							
Teacher Name: _____							
Student Name: _____							
Week of...	What to Practice	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

www.sheetmusicdigital.com

- 2) Quiet Place with a Timer - Go to a quiet place in the house and set a timer for 20 minutes. This allows your to focus on your playing, and you don't stop practicing until the timer goes off.



- 3) Tuner/Metronome
  - Tuner - helps students learn to play their instruments in tune
  - Metronome - helps students practice with steady beat
  - Free app for smart device
  - "Online metronome" (type into google)
  - Buy one from your local music vendor



- 4) Basic Band Info website (for 5th Grade)
  - <http://basicband.info/>
  - This website contains helpful video lessons for each instrument that reinforce what we learn in class

- 5) Extra Help/Band Mentor Program on Thursdays After School until 3:05
- Students come to get extra help from Mr. MacDonald
  - Students come to work with older students and learn from a peer
  - Students come to practice their music individually or with their friends

### **Practice Strategies**

Here are some common issues students run into when they are practicing by themselves at home and how to use problem solving skills to handle these obstacles:

- 1) “I don’t know where to start.”
  - a) Overwhelmed by how much you have to practice? Break it down. Focus on one section of one piece of your music, or even smaller just one measure.
  
- 2) “I don’t know how to play this measure.”
  - Go through the Step by Step Music Learning Process:
    - a) How would you sing it? What’s the solfege (do re mi fa so la ti do)? (See the basic band packet in the binder.)
    - b) What are the note names? What are the fingerings/slide positions? (Mallet Percussion: Where are those notes on the keyboard?)
    - c) What is the rhythm? Pat the rhythm on your knees and say the rhythm counts. Write the rhythm counts underneath the notes.
    - d) Use a metronome to play it with steady beat. If you can’t play it with steady beat, slow the tempo down until you can. Then increase the tempo once you’ve got it.
  - Once you have learned one measure, learn the next one. Use the same process above.
  - Once you have learned two measures, play both measures. If you can play them one after the other, learn the next measure. Keep up this process until you’ve learned the song or part of music.
  
- 3) “I don’t know this note.”
  - a) Look at the fingering chart in the back of the book.
  
- 4) “This is too fast. I can’t play the music at this tempo and I can’t stay with the beat.”
  - a) Slow it down. Use your metronome to decrease the tempo, have it click fewer beats per minute. Once you can play it at a slower tempo, speed the tempo up a little. Then, you have to play it 5 times in a row correctly before you speed it up again. Keep playing this game until you can play the part or song at tempo.