

Beginning Band

Practice Assignment!

Your name _____

Although we haven't learned very many notes just yet, you already know much more about playing an instrument than you did just two short months ago. To remember everything that we do in class, it's important that you practice at home. Here are some practice activities. Check off all of the ones that you did and bring this assignment back to Mr. McInchak on November 5th.

All instruments:

- Practice good posture. How's that string that's attached to your head and the ceiling looking?
- Check your breathing. Do you breathe with your shoulders? Show someone in your family what breathing with your shoulders means.
- Breathe in for 4 counts and out for 4 counts. Repeat. Breathe in for 8 counts and out for 8. Repeat.
- Teach an adult in your family how to put your instrument together and how to take it apart. Be very specific—pretend they don't know anything about your instrument if you have to!
- Check your hand position in a mirror.
- Sing the "French Folk Song" using a smooth articulation ("Doo") and a separated articulation ("Too").
- Finger the notes that we've learned so far: *do, ti, mi, re, fa*, and *sol*. We'll give these notes letter names later in the year. Remember, any note can be "do" but we've only learned first "do" so far!
- Play "Hot Cross Buns" on your instrument.
- Play "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- Figure out another song. Write it here: _____

Flutes:

- ___ Play low notes on your headjoint by covering the end. Start each note with a “too” syllable.
- ___ Play high notes on your headjoint by leaving the end open. Start each note with a “too” syllable.
- ___ See how long you can hold out a note on your headjoint.
- ___ Practice slide whistles for fun.
- ___ Practice the first *do* fingering. Practice the flute *do* fingering too.

Oboes:

- ___ Play your reed. Make sure both of your lips are covering your teeth. Start the sound with a “too” syllable.

Clarinets and alto saxes:

- ___ Practice in front of a mirror on your mouthpiece and barrel or neck. Do you look like a puffer fish? Keep those cheeks in!
- ___ Play different rhythms on your mouthpieces. Are you using your tongue to start each note?
- ___ Make sure your fingers are fully covering the open holes, clarinets. Remember, the squishy part of your finger covers the holes, not the finger tip.



Brass (Trumpets, Trombones, and Baritones):

- ___ Buzz high for four counts.
- ___ Buzz low for four counts.
- ___ Buzz a siren sound.
- ___ Buzz a song.
- ___ Check in front of a mirror to make sure that your cheeks are flat. If you look like a puffer fish, try something different.
- ___ Free buzz: start out making a lawnmower sound, and change it into an airplane.

Percussion

- ___ Set up your stand so that the keyboard is a little under your waist. Without looking down at the keyboard, practice playing all four notes. Try this while staring at yourself in a mirror.
- ___ Practice playing the same note eight times in a row in different ways.
 - practice all right-hand strokes
 - practice all left-hand strokes
 - practice 4 right-hand and 4 left-hand
 - practice 4 left-hand and 4 right-hand
 - practice 2 right, 2 left, 2 right, 2 left
 - practice 2 left, 2 right, 2 left, 2 right
 - alternate hands starting with the right hand
 - alternate hands starting with the left hand
 - change notes and start at the top of the list again!

