

Practice Tips

Regular practice is an important part of your child's band experience. Below you'll find some tips to help encourage your child to practice at home throughout the week to prepare for lessons on band days.

1. **Set up a location in your home specifically for practice time.** This could be their room, a space in the living room, or a home office.
2. **Even if your child makes a mistake, or if it doesn't sound quite right, encourage them to keep trying.** Music is all about repetition and working through something even when it gets tough.
3. **Ask your child to show you what they know on their instrument, or to show you what they learned in band that day.** Those first couple months in band you may hear unique sounds coming from their instrument, but this will continue to energize them and get your child excited about learning music. Many students thrive when they are able to give “mini concerts” to their family or friends.
4. **Encourage practice regularly.** We recommend to start getting in the habit of playing 5 days per week outside of band. Even if that is 5-10 minutes, that habit will help your child to continue to grow on their instrument.
5. **Practice can be a good “brain break” when working on other homework.** Planning practice into the homework routine will help it to become a natural part of your child's schedule.
6. **Encourage your child to write down practice goals each week.** Is there a line in their book they want to master? Do they need to spend some time on the band ensemble music? Setting goals can help with focused practice.
7. **To help your child see their progress, record your child playing a line in their book (Hot Cross Buns is a great one!) and then record it again a few weeks later.** This can help students to hear their progress and stay motivated.

“The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra.” - Jimmy Johnson