

4th & 5th Grade Band Practice Reminders:

When in doubt: **sing** the rhythm, **say** the notes, **buzz** (brass players only), *then play*. (you can do it 👍)

1. Practice in a safe, quiet area, with a sturdy chair (not couch) and a music stand to hold your music.
2. DO NOT SHARE YOUR INSTRUMENT WITH ANYONE...not even a family member.
3. Playing outside (band instruments only) is completely fine, if your family and neighbors are cool with it.
4. Read your notes slowly to be sure you understand what to play. Notice any rests and count your rhythms.
5. Listen to the recordings on jwpepper.com so that you know the style and genre of each piece.
6. Is your part melody or harmony? (Main Melody: play out -- Harmony: play softly)
7. Be brilliant about knowing how your part fits in with all of the other parts. Do you know when you are playing with a different section, like the flutes, for example? Listen to the recording again...find out.
8. Be an expert with dynamics that are marked in your part (forte = LOUD, piano = soft). Make amazing *contrast* in your dynamics (louder sections vs. softer sections).
9. Record yourself and then watch/listen to it. What went really well and what's **one** thing to improve.
10. Take breaks! Do **not** practice for an hour straight. Your brain needs to comprehend what you just practiced. Go get some water, play outside, help make a meal, write a nice note for a sibling...
11. If you need help with your instrument (repair, oiling, difficulty making a sound...) PLEASE EMAIL MS. SHINE (michelle.shine@apsva.us) AND MS. TAYLOR (mary.taylor@apsva.us)!
12. Lastly, please practice tricky spots often. Start your practice from a different place in the music each time, don't just "run through" it every time.

Remember, SLOW and STEADY practice always achieves more.