

## Home Practice

### Home Practice = Homework

Daily at-home practice is necessary for students to achieve per Nevada Fine Arts Music Anchor Standard 6 “Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work,” and is in accordance with [WCSD Administrative Regulation 6154](#).

Students should consider practicing at home is their homework for orchestra. All the things covered in class should be practiced at home. This might take 10 minutes or 20 minutes depending on how focused they are in practicing. Research shows that spending a shorter amount of time more often on practicing is more beneficial than spending a long time practicing but less frequently. This means it is better to practice 15 minutes 5 days a week than to practice 75 minutes only on one day per week.

Check Ms. Karl's website, [www.washoeschools.net/ckarl](http://www.washoeschools.net/ckarl), to look at the list of things we are doing in class. Then practice those things at home by yourself.

### Parent/Guardian Support

- Set aside a practice space at home.
- Encourage your student to practice at least 15 minutes daily.
- Support your student with additional musical opportunities (private lessons, WCSD honor orchestra, professional concerts, etc.).
- Celebrate that your student is making music and gaining knowledge in class every day.

When practicing, remember these wise sayings:

*An amateur practices until he can do a thing right. A professional practices until he can't get it wrong. – Percy Buck*  
*Practice only on the days that you eat. – Valerie Palmieri*

### Practice Order

- **Listen** = If possible, listen to a recording of it
- **Kazoo or Sing/Hum it** = Play through your part with your Kazoo. Sing/Hum it if you don't have a Kazoo.
- **Talk & Finger** = Put your fingers in the correct spots while you say the note names out loud without playing
- **Pizzicato** = Play it pizzicato to get the left-hand fingers playing the correct notes
- **Clap & Count** = Clap and count the rhythm out loud
- **Airbow** = Move the bow in the air away from the instrument
  - 1<sup>st</sup> count the rhythms out loud while airbowing
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> say the bow directions out loud while airbowing
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> say the letter names out loud while airbowing
- **Arco** = Put it all together and play with the bow

### Still having trouble? Try these Practice Strategies

- **Get some lead on it** = Use your pencil to write in a note or marking you keep missing (but don't write them *all* in).
- **Metronome** = Practice with a metronome or metronome app set to the tempo of the music or slower
- **2 4 6 8** = Look for patterns and sequences in the music
- **Slo-Mo** = Play as slow as you need to in order to make sure every note is perfect. Speed it up once you can play it well slow.
- **Doubletime** = Play small sections as fast as you can. Then put them back together playing at the correct tempo.
- **Divide & Conquer** = Split the song into small chunks and fix each chunk individually. Gradually put them back together.
- **Come back to it** = Go back to an item you can play really well, and then come back to the harder one you're having trouble with
- **3<sup>rd</sup> time's a charm** = Play each measure or small section perfectly 3 times before moving on. Restart each time you mess up.
- **Change it up** = Make a physical change each time you repeat a measure or section. Ex: lift your left foot, close one eye, look at the ceiling, turn around.

- **Backwards** = Start in the last measure and work your way back to the beginning by adding another measure each time your practice.
- **Take a Break** = Spend 5-10 minutes doing something unrelated to music, then come back to it
- **Open Strings** = Play the rhythm on open strings either *arco* or *pizzicato*
- **Recording Star** = Make an audio or video recording of yourself. Listen/watch it and reflect on what went well and what didn't. Identify one thing you liked and one thing you can improve.