

## ***First Practice Session: Information for Parents***

**“Why does my student need to practice?”** Just with any other skill, individual practice is needed. *You get out what you put in.* The best students in every band are the ones who regularly practice at home or after school. In my opinion, there is no such thing as natural talent in music. Students enjoy music at school when they are successful. They are successful when they put in work outside of class.

**“Why wait so long to start practicing?”** There are many skills that need to be carefully observed as they are developed. Bad habits formed in the beginning can hold students back now and in the future. As good habits have been formed in class, students are ready to begin practicing in small chunks at home.

**“What if I live in an a place that is difficult to practice?”** No need to worry. There are guidelines in the city of Gladstone that state individuals may practice between the hours of 7am and 10pm. The first practice sessions should not last longer than 15 minutes. Neighbors are usually very understanding. In any case, students may practice after school any days except some Wednesdays and can ride the late bus home (except on Wednesdays)

**“What is my responsibility as a parent?”** First, your student’s instrument must be taken care of. Siblings, friends, etc. should not be handling the instrument in any case. Per the **school instrument** rental contract, “lost, stolen, or damaged instruments are the responsibility of the student’s families.” Second, your student will need some help remembering to bring their instrument back to school. I tell students to put their instrument next to their shoes or backpack. They will not receive credit for the day if they forget their instrument. Third, students should not be eating or drinking during or immediately before their practice session. Finally, sign at the end of their practice log that they’ve made an honest attempt to complete the assignment to the best of their ability.

**“My student’s instrument is louder than I thought it would be and they don’t sound like professionals yet!”** That’s okay too! It takes time to develop these skills. I have been watching your students improve very rapidly. Be supportive of their first sounds and you’ll be amazed at how quickly they learn to play beautifully (and quietly!)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_