

# Beginning Instrument Expectations!

WELCOME TO THE BAND AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAM! WE ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCITING ADVENTURE OF MAKING MUSIC. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR TO HELP BUILD YOUR SKILLS SO YOU CAN GROW AS A MUSICIAN!

YOU SHOULD BE PLAYING YOUR INSTRUMENT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, BUT KEEP IN MIND IN THE BEGINNING YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE THE ENDURANCE TO PLAY FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME. PLAY FOR 5-10 MINUTES IN THE BEGINNING STAGES, BUT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO THIS SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY ACCORDING TO YOUR SCHEDULE. AS YOU PROGRESS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME 15-20 MINUTES.

## HERE ARE SOME PLAYING TIPS!

- LOCATE A NICE SPOT WHERE YOU CAN PLAY WITHOUT BEING DISTURBED.
- YOU CAN EITHER PRACTICE STANDING UP OR SITTING DOWN. EITHER WAY IS ACCEPTABLE.
- WHEN STANDING MAKE SURE YOU ARE STANDING UP STRAIGHT WITH GOOD POSTURE. YOUR FEET SHOULD BE ABOUT SHOULDER WIDTH APART BALANCING YOUR WEIGHT ON BOTH FEET. BACK STRAIGHT AND HEAD UP!
- WHEN SITTING PLACE BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND, AND SIT AT THE EDGE OF YOUR CHAIR. THIS WILL CREATE GOOD POSTURE. BACK STRAIGHT AND HEAD UP.
- WHETHER YOU ARE STANDING OR SITTING, ADJUST YOUR MUSIC STAND SO THAT IT IS AT EYE LEVEL, ONCE AGAIN TO MAINTAIN GOOD POSTURE.
- TAKE YOUR TIME AS YOU PLAY THROUGH THINGS.
- LISTEN TO WHAT YOU PLAY. WAS IT A GOOD SOUND? CAN I MAKE THAT SOUND AGAIN? CAN I MAKE IT SOUND BETTER?
  - RECORD YOURSELF! THEN PLAY IT BACK AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN IMPROVE UPON!
- PRACTICE IN-FRONT OF A MIRROR. THIS WILL HELP YOU BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT YOUR FINGERS AND HANDS ARE DOING. ARE YOU HOLDING THE INSTRUMENT CORRECTLY? ARE YOUR FINGERS IN THE CORRECT SPOT?

IT IS OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES! IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE DO NOT GET FRUSTRATED! YOU ARE HUMAN AND IT HAPPENS! KEEP TRYING AND YOU WILL GET IT IN NO TIME!