

How Do I Practice?

Practice Tips for JYMS Band Students (Brass and Woodwinds)

- Find a regular time to practice throughout the week – maybe every weekday, five days a week, or every day of the week! Pick a reasonable amount of time to practice (start with 20 minutes).
- Find a comfortable place to practice without any distractions.
- Have your supplies nearby – instrument, music, pencil, tuner, metronome, etc.
- Set a *realistic* practice goal(s) – figure out what you want to achieve by the end of your practice session.
- Some practice sessions will be better than others – commit to getting better!

1. Warm Up

- Play some *long tones* – Pick a note that you are comfortable with and hold that note for an extended period of time. Focus on producing the best possible sound. Start and stop the note cleanly. Play this note at a comfortable variety of dynamics. Choose a few other notes and repeat.
- Play through two or three technical warm ups that are used in class.

2. Concert Music (or other sheet music)

- Practice smarter, not harder – do not play the song all of the way through
- Pick a small section(s) of the music that needs work
- Practice this section SLOWLY before you speed it up. A metronome will help you keep a steady tempo.
- Increase the tempo when you are ready and put it into context with other sections of the music

3. FUN!

- Play your favorite piece of music
- Try making up your own music
- Try to figure out your favorite song from the radio or a movie
- Challenge yourself by learning a new note