

Music Education.....Makes The Difference.

Lakeview Elementary Band

CONGRATULATIONS! Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical instrument is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement.

During the first week of practice please review with your child the information found on pages 2 and 3 of their Essential Elements 2000 Book. Also review the Start Up Video on the DVD.

10 TIPS TO BEING A BETTER BAND PARENT

1. **Make band a priority not an after thought.** Treat it as you would math or science. Ask your child what he/she did in band today.
2. Provide a place in your home and a set time to practice each day.
3. Check your band student's homework assignments: (Inside cover of the lesson book)
 - a) Ask them to name the notes for you
 - b) Ask them to show you the fingerings
 - c) Ask them to count or clap the rhythms for you
4. Encourage your child to play their instrument for you and let them know how proud you are of their work.
5. Make sure your child has all the necessary supplies: reeds, valve oil, mallets or drumsticks, **THEIR MUSIC BOOK AND A PENCIL**
6. Make sure your child's instrument is in good working condition. If you are unsure, ask you child's band teacher to check it out.
7. Look into the possibility of giving your band student private lessons on their instrument.
8. Attend all school band events.
9. Take your child to band concerts at the upper middle school, senior high school, in the community and professional groups such as the symphony.
10. Encourage practicing with the Book 1 Audio CD

What Musicians Can Do:

1. Set a goals for each practice session. After the practice session is over, see if you accomplished your goals for that session. If you did not, see how you can improve for the next session.
2. Look up any fingerings you do not know in your lesson book.
3. Circle your problem measures and name and finger the notes slowly over and over without playing. This is called getting the notes under your fingers.
4. Using a metronome, play the problem measures slowly, gradually increasing the tempo.
5. If counting is a problem, use the metronome and count and clap the rhythms. Remember, always count in your head and tap your toe. If you can count it, you can play it!
6. Record your practice session. Recordings don't lie and it's a good way to access whether you accomplished your goals.
7. Remember: **IT'S NOT HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE, BUT HOW YOU PRACTICE THAT COUNTS.**

SEE YOU AT OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE AT 7:00 PM ON DECEMBER 21, 2010

(Check out the Stow Band Web Page at stowband.org)

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