

Hello FCS Band Parents,

As we begin the new school year, I'm excited to help guide your students in their musical journey with their instruments! I've included important information about home practice routines and classroom expectations.

Here are some things you need to be aware of:

- 1. Regular practice is crucial for your student's musical development*
- 2. Practice participation contributes to their band class grade*

Please review the attached guidelines and contract, sign the acknowledgment form with your student, and return it to me. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Your support is invaluable in making band a rewarding part of your student's education. Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Barb Uden

FCS BAND GRADING AND PRACTICE GUIDELINES

PRACTICE HINTS FOR PARENTS

Why Practice?

Individual practice is an essential element of learning an instrument and becoming a confident musician.

****Every student in band is expected to practice regularly throughout the school year.***

Practicing is homework for band and is a significant part of their grade.

For students, the benefit of practicing is to become proficient on their instrument.

Practicing at regular intervals also helps them build and maintain the muscles needed to play their specific instrument.

Honestly, the better they play their instrument, the more fun band is!

What if my child doesn't practice?

If your child isn't practicing, they aren't doing their homework for band.

****If your child doesn't practice, they will fall behind in band, their sound will struggle to improve, and it will negatively affect their grade.***

What if my child practices, but doesn't sound very good?

....yet! It doesn't sound good yet because your child is still developing the fundamental techniques to make a good sound.

****It will get much better very soon, but only if they keep working on the skills assigned in their homework.***

Keep encouraging your child. Feel free to laugh with them when their instrument sounds like a sick elephant! But, please make a point to let your child know when you hear their sound improving! They will improve if they keep playing!

In order to help your child be successful, here's what you do:

1. **Create a good practice environment** where your child can concentrate, avoiding as many distractions as possible.
2. Set aside a specific time for your child to practice. **You only need to set aside 15 minutes, 3 times a week. (Ex. Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday)** Setting a schedule helps your child know that practicing is important (and fun!). If your child wants to play longer than the assigned times - let them! They (and you) will be rewarded with amazing sounds in the future!
3. **Private lessons are not a requirement but are encouraged.** A student who receives individual instruction will generally progress better than those who do not. Please let me know if you would like help finding a private instructor for your child.

Band Contract - Practice Expectations and Logistics

1. Students must practice at least 45 minutes each week, on 3 different days of the week for 15 minutes each day.
2. Students must record practice times on their Practice Log and have a parent/guardian confirm their practice by signing it each week.
These logs need to be brought to class at the beginning of each week to be recorded towards their grade.
3. Students are required to bring their instrument (including necessary accessories) and their music to school on each day they have band class (B days). It is impossible to participate in band class without the proper equipment. They should also be bringing their instrument and music home to practice on days they don't have band.
4. Learning an instrument takes time, effort, and commitment.
Students will be expected to participate in band for the entire school year.
If they feel they have chosen the wrong instrument to play, please contact Mrs. Uden about switching to a different instrument.

(Please keep this portion for your records.)

(Please detach and return to Mrs. Uden.)

Band Contract - Acknowledgement Form

This verifies that we have read the “FCS Band Grading and Practice Guidelines” and “Band Contract - Practice Expectations and Logistics”. We are aware of and are committed to following the expectations required for band class.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date