

## Practicing Guidelines

1. What you can include on this practice chart:
  - a. Any time spent with your instrument **outside of school**. This includes private lessons, youth orchestra rehearsals, etc.
  - b. You **may not include** class time or school concerts/performances.
2. **Parents must initial at the end of each week.** If the practice chart is not signed when it is checked during class, the student will receive a 0% for that week which will be averaged into the final practice chart grade.
3. Set up a regular practice time. Daily practice is necessary for progress to be made. Practice is best treated as part of homework and once a habit is established, it is relatively easy to maintain.
4. Each week students should be practicing the assignments that have been recorded on their “What to Practice” sheet.

### **Helpful practicing hints:**

1. Work through difficult sections first.
2. Practice slowly before speeding up. You have to walk before you can run! (Use your metronome.)
3. Count and clap difficult rhythms, then bow the rhythm on an open string.
4. Isolate difficult bowings and practice them on open strings.
5. Work on difficult notes in small sections. If necessary, practice them without the rhythm.
6. Allow yourself to play through an entire piece without stopping. However your entire practice session should not consist of this.
7. Intonation: Practice slowly with a tuner to get every note precisely in tune.
8. Make sure you are paying attention to your tone quality, the tempo, dynamics, phrasing and articulation.

**Remember that consistent practice is more effective than practicing for a long period of time on only one or two days a week.**

### **Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Minutes per week:</b>	<b>How often to practice:</b>
A	At least 125 minutes a week	Practice 25 minutes, 5 days a week
B	100 – 124 minutes a week	Practice 25 minutes, 4 days a week
C	75 – 99 minutes a week	Practice 25 minutes, 3 days a week
D	50 – 74 minutes a week	Practice 25 minutes, 2 days a week
E	Below 50 minutes a week or chart not turned in/not signed	Practice less than 25 minutes, 2 days a week

**\* Mrs. McKay will check Practice Charts every week during sectionals.**