

# Whitford Middle School Practice Guide

Practicing is necessary for a good musician and band. It is the homework that is required for band class. Students need to perfect skills and work individually so that during band class, focus can be given to ensemble skills.

If your student is in this grade	He or she should practice AT MINIMUM
6th	15 minutes, 5 days a week
7th	20 minutes, 5 days a week
8th	30 minutes, 5 days a week

These are the MINIMUM recommended practice times for band students. Extra practice is recommended if your student is in any extra ensembles or performing a solo.

Here are some handy tips to help facilitate good practice habits!

- Try to have a set time and place for practicing. The more practicing becomes part of a routine, the easier it is to keep it up naturally.
- Students should have goals for each time they practice. If there is a specific set of scales or a trouble spot with music, students should aim to improve that area during practice.
- Playing music should be fun and students should play parts that they are good at, but that should not be all that is looked at when practicing. Good musicians work on the hard parts too, it's how they get better!
- Focus on all aspects of playing an instrument. Students should check things like posture, breathing, and instrument carry. There's more to music than just playing the right notes!
- Professionals never practice without a metronome or a pencil! They are the most important things to have outside of your instrument and your music! There are free metronomes on the internet like this one right [HERE](#).
- If something is frustrating and difficult, slow it down! If that doesn't work, break it into small pieces! With a little time this will make everything you play much easier!
- Consider recording a practice session to listen back to how it sounds. Also think about playing in front of a mirror occasionally to check posture.
- The best thing to accelerate student growth, is private lessons. Ask Mr. Nash about studying privately with area instructors if your student wants to become one of the top students in the band.