

## **Band Letter 9: November 12th, 2014**

Dear Band Parents,

**We will resume our regularly scheduled Thursday morning rehearsals tomorrow morning, November 13th. Rehearsal will take place in the band portable classroom again (not in the gym).**

The assignment for this week will be:

• Standard of Excellence Book: **Page 9 (and in some cases: page 10)** – Please help remind your children to practice regularly so they do not fall behind on their band homework!

I had to reassign some students **Page 8** because of a lack of practice or lack of correct practice– please make sure you help your students keep on track with their band assignments so they do not fall behind.

The steps to successful practicing which we also use in our lessons here at school are:

1. Figure out the note pitches by saying the names of the notes out loud while the student practices the correct fingering/slide or hand position
2. Clapping and counting the rhythm of the notes
3. Putting it together by playing the song on their instruments
4. If the song isn't clicking, move back a step and take the song apart to practice "trouble spots" by trying just one or two measures over and over. This will help to work out tricky fingerings or rhythms, before playing the whole song again without stopping

**I only had *one* student come in to lessons prepared with a signed practice chart today!! Please take the time to re-read the following message which I sent last week in letter 8:**

***“In the front cover of each lesson book, there is an assignment chart with a space for a parent/guardian’s signature in the right hand corner.***

***Your child’s job:** write down their weekly assignments at lessons and record how many minutes each practice session is during the week.*

***Your job:** Confirm that your child’s practice chart lists the correct amount of practice sessions and minutes practiced each week with your signature.*

*At this point in the year, I begin to review practice chart each week to check for total minutes and signatures. This will begin on November 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> and will continue for the remainder of the year. Please note that these home practice charts are a part of your child's grading process for band – our weekly assignments are the band homework for the week. Thus, incomplete assignments (no practice) will result in a lower grade overall. “*

Here are a few fun links to some note naming theory games and flashcards for your children to check out:

Select Treble or Bass Clef notes in “set up”

<http://makingmusicfun.net/flash/seekshark.htm>

Treble Clef Notes:

[http://www.freddiethefrog.com/games/Freddie the Frog and the Thump in the Night/index.php](http://www.freddiethefrog.com/games/Freddie%20the%20Frog%20and%20the%20Thump%20in%20the%20Night/index.php)

Bass Clef Notes:

[http://www.freddiethefrog.com/games/Freddie the Frog and the Bass Clef Monster/index.php](http://www.freddiethefrog.com/games/Freddie%20the%20Frog%20and%20the%20Bass%20Clef%20Monster/index.php)

As always, please let me know if you have any questions and have a great week!

Warm Regards,

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