

A Parent's Guide To Enhancing Your Student's Musical Experiences CONGRATULATIONS!

Your decision to provide your student with a quality musical instrument is an investment in their future. In making it possible for your student to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and achievement. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a student's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your student the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your student's life.

BENEFITS

For Your Student

Music participation enhances:

- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Goal-setting
- Self-expression
- Physical coordination
- Memory skills
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Concentration
- Poise

For Your Family

A student's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences, such as:

- Musical event attendance
- Family music-making
- Performing for, and with, family and friends
- Learning about the lives of composers and their cultural heritage
- A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family

HOW YOU FIT IN

Always keep in mind that your support is an essential element in your student's success with music study.

Schedule Practice Times

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. The time in orchestra rehearsal is limited. New concepts learned at school need daily personal practice time by your student at home in order for these new skills to be developed. You can help your student by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Scheduling a consistent daily time for practice
- Praising your student's efforts and achievements

WHAT TO DO

To give your student the best possible support, you should:

- Remind your student to bring instrument and music to orchestra class
- Encourage your student to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement regularly
- Expose your student to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals
- Encourage your student to talk with you about classes
- Make sure your student's instrument is always maintained well
- Listen to your student practice, and acknowledge improvement
- Help your student build a personal music library
- Encourage your student to make a commitment to his or her music studies
- Get to know your student's teacher ☺

WHAT TO AVOID

- Using practice as a punishment
- Insisting your student play for others when he/she doesn't want to
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes of less-than-perfect playing
- Apologizing to others for your student's weak performance

TO MAINTAIN YOUR STUDENT'S INTEREST

- Talk with your student if his or her interest begins to decline
- Discuss with the orchestra teacher ways to maintain your student's enthusiasm for playing
- Increase your enthusiasm and involvement in your student's playing

Once again, welcome to our orchestral family! Thank you for your support!

- Mr. Smith