



MUSIC AT LEMAY ELEMENTARY

Why should I practice? Practicing is an important part of learning a new skill. Be sure to find a quiet place that is well lit. You can stand or sit while you practice, but don't forget to have good posture. You don't need to practice for long periods of time. More frequent practice periods which are shorter in time are the best.

Remember...practicing is your musical homework.

How should I practice? Learning a new piece of music is challenging. Follow these steps to make learning a new piece easier.

1. **Scan the music.** Check to see what the time signature is, what notes are involved in the song, if there are any patterns, etc.
2. **Read the rhythm.** Speak the rhythm clearly and slowly, repeat if you get mixed up.
3. **Sing the song.** Either sing the words (if you know the song) or look at the last note to determine where do is and sing the syllables.
4. **Speak the notes.** Be sure to look at the music carefully and identify the letter names of the notes that are in the song.
5. **Finger Sing.** Sing the pitches and finger along. Do this slowly and methodically. This actively trains your brain so that when you go to play, your fingers will know what to do.
6. **Play.** Use a gentle breath. Press your fingers firmly, covering all of the holes with flat fingers while you play.
7. **Review.** Were there any parts of the song that were difficult? If so, practice these few measures over before repeating the song.

Remember...practice what you don't know.

