

Band and Orchestra News

Epiphany 1

Miss Aislinn Bohot

UPDATES

Due to MLK Day, none of the Monday classes and sectionals will be held this week. I hope you all enjoy the three-day weekend! It's a perfect opportunity to fit in some practice time!

Band: Practice logs and revised sectional schedules were handed out to the students on Monday. If you need a refresher on expectations for these items, please review my most recent email!

Orchestra: No updates this week, but I did want to say that I am impressed with how focused the students have been during class since the beginning of the semester!

PRACTICE ITEMS

Kindergarten

Essential Elements pg. 6: We are still working on learning the notes on the D string. Many students still need to press their fingers down harder on the strings to get a loud, clear sound.

It will also be helpful to have them practice holding the violin with no hands! They should be able to hold the instrument between their head and shoulder. This will help the left hand to relax more so they can easily reach the tapes on all of the strings.

1/2 Orchestra

Essential Elements, pg. 11: We are trying to use more space on the bow when we play to get a fuller sound. I am really impressed with the students' note reading on this page! Focus mostly on the scale exercises this week.

3/4 Orchestra

Essential Elements, pg. 14-15: Students are working on mastery of reading notes on the staff. We are trying our best to avoid reading the notes by looking at the finger numbers.

5 Band

Standard of Excellence, pg. 13: We are learning to count eighth notes. The best way to practice them is with a metronome! Focus especially on #48 (Go Tell Bill).

6 Band

Standard of Excellence, back cover: We are learning to play the chromatic scale.



Sectionals: Some of the students have been given a small ensemble piece to work on with their sectional groups!

7/8 Band

Fantasy on an Irish Hymn Tune: We are focusing on measure 51 through the end of the piece, so the ending can sound strong when we perform! In sectionals, many of the students have picked out a small ensemble piece to work on within their group.

WHAT'S ON MY PLAYLIST?

My recommendation for you this week is “Troika” from Sergei Prokofiev’s *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*. It’s an upbeat and wintry tune that’ll make you feel like it’s snowing outside! Listen to it [here!](#)