

# Band and Orchestra News

*Sexagesima*

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## UPDATES

I will not be holding afternoon classes and sectionals next Friday (February 13) due to the early dismissal. This affects 1-4 Orchestra and Grade 7/8 saxophone and trumpet sectionals.

## PRACTICE ITEMS

### Kindergarten

*Essential Elements pg. 8:* We are continuing work on songs that switch notes often. Additionally, have them practice holding the bow at home (just holding it, not playing with it)! To make sure they are holding the bow correctly, check the shape of their hand with the picture on page 12.

### 1/2 Orchestra

*Essential Elements, pg. 14:* We learned the mnemonics for lines and spaces on the staff. From bottom to top, spaces spell “FACE,” and we remember the lines through the acronym “Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge.” We are working on the song “Old McDonald.”

### 3/4 Orchestra

*Essential Elements, pg. 20:* This week, we learned about eighth notes and how to play eighth note rhythms. Focus especially on the last two songs on pg. 20.

### 5 Band

*Standard of Excellence, pg. 15:* Practice playing these songs slowly with a metronome. We are practicing slurring our notes, which means they should sound smooth and connected. However, when notes are not slurred, students should make sure they are tonguing every note.

### 6 Band

*Playing Tests:* During their next sectional, all members of the band will be tested on the Concert E flat Major Scale. This is on page 42 in the Standard of Excellence method book.



*Do-Re-Mi*: We made really great progress by playing this piece with a metronome during class this week! I encourage students to practice this piece with a metronome at home. If you do not have a metronome, you can search for one on Google or download a metronome app.

### **7/8 Band**

*Fantasy on an Irish Hymn Tune*: Practice difficult rhythms slowly at “Decisively” section.

*Terracotta*: Mark any accents and practice playing them in contrast with notes that aren’t accented.

## **WHAT’S ON MY PLAYLIST?**

My recommendation for you this week is the first movement of Shostakovich’s second piano concerto. Towards the end of this movement are some of my favorite harmonies I’ve ever heard!

You can listen to it [here](#)!