



MYRIAD MUSIC SCHOOL
AND DANCE ACADEMY

HOME MUSIC ASSIGNMENTS & SMART PRACTICING

What does this look like? Helpful tips for Home!

Here are some great Home Tips for Myriad Parents to get the most out of music lessons.

Our music teachers help our students with step-by-step homework guidelines, geared for weekly success. We want them coming back each week, feeling encouraged, ready for that next step. If home practice becomes “tough”, let us know sooner, rather than later. More often than not, this student has forgotten how to break down the steps into small enough “bites” ~ trying too much all at once.

We can help – this is the part about teaching that we really care about.

If a child is consistently doing little bits every day, we know from experience that everyone progresses and feels encouraged by the process. Review the Home Assignment structure below, so that you can help your child plan how to fit consistent practice into their days between lessons and classes.

2 SUPER TIPS TO ENSURE YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF MUSIC LESSONS!

- Regular attendance is the best thing you can do to progress and feel confident.
- A quick chat with your child’s teacher on a monthly basis will really help your child.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR EACH PROGRAM

“Mindful consistency is the key when practicing.”

Private Lessons & Team Students: Students must have an instrument at home to practice. Pianists need a bench (not a chair). All instrumentalists and singers need a music stand. Your teacher writes a weekly personalized homework assignment. Help your child follow through at home to maximize confidence and results. **Voice Students:** Bring your iPhone or tablet to each lesson to record the lessons. **Home practice 5 days per week is our school standard.** This ensures progress/readiness for the next lesson.

Chorus & Glee Students: This is a homework-free class until 6-8 weeks before our concerts. We have concerts in January and again in May. Stay tuned for our Concert newsletters.

Kid’s Ukulele Band: Students must have their own Ukulele to take this class. Ask us for advice about purchasing a quality ukulele. **Homework is 5 minutes per day/ 5 days per week.**

Young Musicians & Superstars: Piano Booklet, Ukulele Booklet, Glockenspiels & Ukuleles are supplied. **Homework is 5 minutes per day / 2-3 days per week.**

Preschool Music: Access your Digital Home Materials through your online subscription, set up by the school. Listen to the music often at home.



Tip #1: SMALL STEPS EACH DAY, CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN.

Consistent practice, 5 days per week is much, much better than cramming it all into 1, 2, or 3 sessions. spurts and bursts create frustration. Skills will not feel dependable. We know that the turtles “win the race”, in the game of music lessons. Our job is to make these small, weekly steps attainable, building self-esteem in our young musicians!



Tip #2: SMART PRACTICE SOUNDS LIKE THIS!

It sounds slow. Students who practice slowly, progress more quickly! Playing a musical instrument is a fine motor skill. It also involves reading a new complex language. Racing through the routine creates sloppy habits that are harder to undo the longer they persist. This is true for new and experienced musicians alike. Always walk before you run.

It sounds like the ADD-ON GAME ~ little pearls on a necklace, small parts creating the whole.

In the beginning stages of learning a new song, students should work hands separately (for piano) and also bar by bar. We use something called the ADD – ON GAME, which is a post-it placed on the music. The student moves this post-it forward note by note, rhythm by rhythm, until they can string the passage together. Students of all ages, on all instruments find the ADD – ON GAME comforting & success-building!



Tip #3: SMART PRACTICE LOOKS LIKE THIS!

It looks like a routine – not a daily marathon. Just a focused, effective routine.

Students who practice at the same time each day, for a regular amount of age-appropriate minutes get consistently better. Consistency is what matters, not length of practice. Don't ask a young child to sit for a long period of time. This will most certainly backfire. Set age-appropriate goals. Follow the weekly action steps and talk to your teacher about the best plan for your child.

It looks like relaxed, tension-free posture. We provide posture diagrams for each instrument. Ask for one from your teacher. Set your ergonomics correctly from the beginning. Tension-free playing means better sound, better technique, hands down.

It looks like Purposeful Practice: Read Teacher Tips , follow the advice, and record Practice

Minutes daily, on the weekly assignment sheets. Treat this process like a daily practice journal. Our students take pride in their weekly totals and teachers cheer them on to do their personal best each time.

It looks like starting from the challenge spots in your songs, not the beginning each time.

Don't start at the beginning each time – start at the challenge spots your teacher has marked for you, and do these challenge spots many times, until the problems are gone. Then start at the beginning, and try to piece it all together. Starting in the middle sections is a good idea too.



Tip #4: SMART PRACTICE SPEAKS TOO! Smart musicians count out loud.

You should hear your young musician counting their rhythm numbers out loud, especially when first learning a new song. This can be challenging at the beginning, but we have games and activities to make this skill easier.

HERE IS WHAT SMART PRACTICING DOES NOT LOOK LIKE

- Playing over and over from beginning to end, with the same mistakes over and over again. This is just making your mistakes more ingrained making your progress slow down.
- Practicing without referring to the tips your teacher sent home with you simply wastes time.
- Leaving more than 1 day between your lesson and the first day you practice your home assignment.
- Playing your song 1 time per day, and thinking that is enough. This is a muscle memory activity. Just like athletes do repeated exercises, musicians do too. Make your songs second nature, and you will grow in to a “natural” musician.