

NAME: _____ PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Westwood 6th Grade Band

THANKSGIVING PRACTICE

Make sure your embouchure is set correctly. Chin flat? Corners firm? How about your posture and hand position? Do you have “soft Cs?” Are you keeping your fingers touching the keys/valves? Are you breathing correctly through the corners? Is your chin up and are your feet flat on the floor?

Breathe! Yes, you should practice breathing – especially seeing how long you can breathe out for. Count the seconds, then try and add one. Bored? Lie on the floor with a heavy book or iPad on your stomach and keep your inhales and exhales steady – it’s harder than you’d think. How long can you hold a note? 5 seconds? 12?

Granny Mozart You should be able to learn every note on every page. Play with a whole rest in between each note. Make sure you’re breathing for two and holding for 1+2+3+4+off. Keep a steady, constant air stream and a relaxed embouchure.

Wiggles We’ve worked on lines 1 and 2 – how fast can you go? How many lines can you learn? Which elephant numbers do you want to be able to color in when we return from the break?

“Break it Down” scales In your instrument packet after Wiggles, find your Bb and F “break it down” scales. Scales are the basis for all music – start learning them now!

Winter Concert Songs Our concert is coming soon! If you know you’re having trouble with one particular song, then break it down and fix it. Start with your metronome at 72, then record yourself and listen back – are you staying with the beat? Is your sound clear? Is your tonguing accurate? Be picky with yourself and the entire group will sound better. Remember, don’t get overwhelmed with the WHOLE song – break it down into small chunks; count, name and finger, play.

Practice with a Friend There are 127 people in the Westwood 6th Grade Band. Find one and practice your concert songs together. Try to sound like one. Record yourselves playing on a phone or iPad and critique yourselves the way your band teachers critique you on a playing test. How was your tonguing? Did you sound like one? Did you make a great sound?

Anything in your book that looks like a fun song! Remember how we learn new songs:

- Count through it
- Finger and name notes
- Play a measure at a time
- Add the measures together
- Play a concert for your family!

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I PRACTICED:

- o Rhythm Rockers units #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6
- o Playing with a great embouchure
- o Tonguing four quarter notes
- o Breathing
- o Holding Concert F for 8 steady beats @ quarter note = 72
- o Milk
- o Butter
- o Sugar
- o Eggs
- o Chocolate Chips
- o Wiggles lines 1, 2, and 3
- o Lip slurs
- o Bb Major Scale and F Major Scale – break it down
- o Songs from the red book (which ones?) _____
- o Jingle Bells
- o Songs in my holiday songs packet (which ones?) _____
- o I practiced with a friend (who? _____)
- o I recorded myself playing Jingle Bells and listened to it
- o I practiced something else: _____
- o I cleaned my instrument (page 5, instrument packet)



- o I downloaded the RhythmCat app and got to level: _____
- o I downloaded the NinGenius app and got a _____ belt.
- o I downloaded the Metronome app because it’s good for my health.
- o I downloaded Staff Wars and played for ____ minutes.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, November 27th, 28th, and 29th – Master Classes @ WEST Junior High, 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM

Monday, December 17th – Winter Concert rehearsal @ WWJH from 4:00-4:45 PM

Wednesday, December 19th – OUR WINTER CONCERT!!! Arrive at 6:00 PM, concert begins at 6:30 PM @ WWJH.