**PRACTICING TIPS**

“*I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed…if you put in the work, the results will come*.” ~ Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan was one of the best basketball players in history, and his success was no fluke. In the quote above, he is saying that practice was the reason for his success. He succeeded by practicing over and over again until he got it right, and then practicing some more. It’s the same with music, only with regular practice can you reach your potential as a musician, and can we reach our potential as a band!

* For busy middle school students the best routine is to practice every day for at least 15 minutes, or approximately 4 times per week (30-45 minutes each time).

***Routine***

1. Set goals
2. Warm up with long tones, scales, and sight reading (red or blue book)
3. Practice goals until you can’t get them wrong (adjust goals when necessary)
4. Play something just for fun!
5. Reflect: What went well? What didn’t go well?
6. Set goals for your next practice session.

***Remember***

* Be picky, the details are important!
* Always play with your best sound!

***Strategies***

* Looping (1 or 2 bars at a time)
* 4 times in row – ALL correct
* Notes without rhythm
* Rhythm without notes
* Air patterns (“Toh-toh-toh-toh”)
* Fingerings in rhythm
* Slow-faster-fast-fastest-slow
* Play it through (no stopping)

***Being Picky***

* Expect perfection
* Don’t allow yourself to play incorrectly (so SLOW DOWN!)
* If it’s not perfect you still need to work on it
* Be honest with yourself
* Keep expecting more and better

**Important Terms**

* Tone
* Intonation
* Pitch
* Rhythm
* Dynamics
* Articulation
* Tempo
* Phrasing
* Listening
* Air
* Memorize
* Repetition