

What is the difference between Practicing, Playing, Rehearsing, and Performing?

What is "Practicing?"

- Deliberate, systematic, highly structured
- Scientific (experimentation, clear goals, hypotheses)
- Goal oriented (short and long term)
- Slow and repetitive
- Careful self-monitoring, self-teaching
- Work on what needs improvement
- Solve individual problems
- Develop consistency
- Build correct muscle and musical memory
- Set attainable goals because achieving them is fun!
- Efficient

What is "Playing"?

Not focused, mindless.

Auto pilot, for example: someone plays through a piece of music until they mess up, then they stop and play the passage again until it is a little better, then they keep going. This is only strengthening the ability to make mistakes in the music. It is also a waste of time to play the parts of the music where there weren't mistakes.

It doesn't make sense to play unconsciously, and then expect to perform consciously.

What is "Rehearsing"?

Band rehearsal is the opportunity for all the instruments and parts to come together. Students will develop directed and critical listening skills. Group problems can be solved. Students will learn how to balance their individual part with the people around them and learn how to match tone, tuning, articulation, and style with the others in the ensemble. This is the chance to do things together as a band that cannot be done alone. Students should not come to band class to learn their part, but rather to learn everyone else's part and how their part fits in. Coming to rehearsal without practicing is like showing up to a drama rehearsal without studying any lines or steps. Individual practice allows the band as a whole to advance further musically. Students are responsible not only to themselves but also to their peers to learn their parts.

What is "Performing"?

Performing is the culmination of all the planning, practicing, and rehearsing that took place. This is a chance to present a final product to an audience. Students are highly focused on being successful as individuals and as a group when performing with an ensemble.

What Should Practicing Sound like: 5-10-10-5

RMS students should be practicing 30 minutes 3 times a week, except for beginning band which should be 15 minute segments for the first month as they build up embouchure muscles.

5 minutes: Warm Up

- Breathing Exercises
- Long Tones
- Buzzing (Brass only)
- Lip Slurs

10 minutes: Technique

- Tuning (Get a tuning/metronome app!)
- Tonguing exercises
- Scale work
- Arpeggios
- Method Book Exercises

10 minutes: Repertoire

- Hard Parts Only!
- Chunk it: 4-8 bars max at a time
- Follow the 7 Steps to Success in Band

5 minutes: Student Choice

- Pick what you love to play and have fun!
- Always play with good tone and air support

