

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I will miss seeing and interacting with our students for the next several weeks, but safety is our number one concern. As a performance based class this time will be challenging for us and I am striving to give your students assignments that will continue to enhance their progress in playing their instruments. Throughout the next few weeks the best option is for your son/daughter to be playing their instrument every day. I will be asking that they submit videos of themselves playing different warm-ups, scales or pieces of music. We will be utilizing Google Drive, Google Classroom, and Google Hangouts daily for our class. Assignments will be communicated to students through Google Classroom, and students are expected to meet deadlines for assignments. Students will need to download the following free apps onto their mobile device to help them with recording them playing their instruments:

- Google Drive, Google Classroom and Google Hangouts

When they download these three apps, they need to sign in with their SCHOOL email account and password. This will allow them to access not only their band/orchestra work, but the rest of their classes at Heskett. Students should have their instruments at home with them and will be uploading daily recordings of them practicing. Practice tips and step-by-step instructions for how to record and upload yourself practicing are stapled to this letter, and will be in our Google Classroom as well.

In Google Classroom, students should be checking the “Classwork” tab daily for new assignments. Under that same tab, there will be many resources to help students in our “Class Drive Folder.”

Google Classroom Codes:

- Orchestra: brgsxag,
- 2nd period 7th grade band: aumbhjk
- 8th grade band: o2xtadt
- 6th period 7th grade band: pthtmtz
- BHS Symphonic: xeasxwf

Additionally, there are some suggested free websites for students to explore independently: musictheory.net and therhythmtrainer. The website jwpepper has recordings of the pieces our kids are working on in class. Students can listen to these recordings for suggestions on articulations and dynamics.

As it stands our Heskett band concert is on Wednesday, April 8, our BHS instrumental concert is Wednesday, April 22 and our Heskett orchestra concert is May 20. I will give your son/daughter goals, but I hope that they set their own goals. I will answer emails within 24 hours and am also available via remind.me. Phone calls are also welcome.

Thanks for your support of our kids and our program.

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

Ms. Shauf

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PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND TIPS

1. Make sure you have everything set-up when you practice (instrument, music, valve oil, reeds, rosin). This way you won't have to constantly get up to get something!
2. Set a time-limit and a list of three goals for yourself and **STICK TO THEM!** For example:
 - a. Today I will practice 20 minutes. In those 20 minutes I will play long tones for 16 counts, lip slurs column 3, and work on measures 20-45 in my music.
3. Don't forget to warmup! Just like we do in class, when you start practicing you should take 5 minutes to warmup (playing long tones, tunings and bowings, lip slurs, and scales).
4. Practice things that you can't play well (yet)! While it is ok to play through things you can do well, most of your focus and time should be spent on sections that you find tricky. If you have any questions you can email me and we can set up a Google Hangout session.
5. Record yourself practicing and then immediately listen to the recording while looking at the music you just played. Sometimes it is easier to find any mistakes you made when you are only listening and not focusing on playing AND listening.
6. Practice **SMALL** sections. Only focus on around 4-8 measures at a time while you are practicing. Towards the end of your practice session is when you want to play larger sections.
7. Finally: it is ok to be frustrated! If something isn't working well, you can always come back to it later that day or tomorrow. The important thing is that you tried and you're coming back to it another time.

Golden Rule of Practicing

Start playing something that is easier for you

Work on something that's difficult

End with playing something that you enjoy