



Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Band

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Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Welcome to Band! The rewards of being a part of this exciting musical organization are great. The first few weeks of learning to play a band instrument are especially important. Good practice habits need to be established at home from the beginning, and a parent or guardian can HELP.

Help set up the best practice facility. This area should be well lit and free from distractions and should accommodate a straight chair and a music stand. If a computer is available, the student will be able to play along with accompaniment recordings.

Establish a regular time and routine for practice sessions. Student should begin with warm-up exercises, and then move into the week's assignment. Troublesome parts should be isolated and worked out before the entire song is repeated. Students should end the practice session with a few favorites, just for fun!

Listen enthusiastically to your child's practicing. Recognize his or her efforts with an encouraging comment such as, "I really enjoyed listening to you play today" or "Keep up the good work. I can hear you getting better!" You are the audience your child will most appreciate.

Participate in our three-way partnership: parent(s)/guardian(s), student and teacher working together to make band an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Start by reinforcing your students practice routine. Acknowledge his or her home practice time on a chart or calendar.

Enjoyment of playing a band instrument and a desire to practice come with success; success is the result of dedicated practice. Together, we can guide your child on the road to those great rewards. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, or if I may be of any additional help.

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