

Six Keys to Studying for Band, Strings, or Chorus



Manage Your Time

Make a plan to practice nightly even if it is only for 5 or 10 minutes. Use “to-do” lists, your agenda, a calendar (digital or regular), or a notebook to record assignments. Plan practice time around social, family, and extra-curricular commitments. Make effective use of your time!



Update Your Developmental Workbook

Keep notes, assignments, and reflections according to the directions of the teacher. Use “down time” to update and organize your developmental workbook. Make sure that you make your best effort on all assignments. Keep your music information organized.



Understand Band, Strings, or Chorus Vocabulary

Make flashcards, use online vocabulary games, play games with flashcards, and review vocabulary activities. Learn more than just the term and definition. Be able to re-phrase the definition, use the definition in an example, and identify correct and incorrect uses of the vocabulary.



Practice, Practice, Practice

Create a weekly practice schedule that includes the time and duration of your practice sessions. Make sure that you include time to warm up. Write down sections that are challenging during practice. Have a knowledgeable peer evaluate your performance. Schedule more practice sessions closer to performance time. Include feedback if possible.



Presentation Skills

Review checklist for proper appearance: clean and proper uniform, hair and jewelry rules, and tidy appearance. Perform using correct posture to insure accurate performance. Sit or stand in the assigned location. During “down time” use your rest phase. Make sure that you are not making noise or distracting from the performance. Make sure to use your breathing exercises.



Use Your Resources

Study guides, study games, links to resources, practice sheets, tutoring, and performance practice. Attend practice, dress rehearsal and class practice leading up to the performance. Use friends, family members, and classmates to help evaluate your performance.