

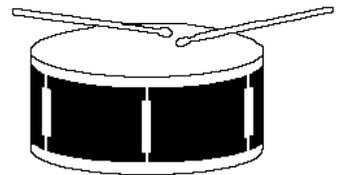
# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO ENHANCING YOUR CHILD'S BAND EXPERIENCE

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical instrument is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement. These suggestions are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With the right support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

## **HOW DO WE IT IN?**

### **WHAT TO DO**

- Help your child set up a special place at home to play the instrument.
- Establish a time each day to play. Some children are at their best in the morning, before school. Some parents set a time after the evening bath when the child is relaxed, but not tired. In the beginning stages we recommend 10-15 minutes a day spread over 5 days
- Consider using the phrase "playing time" rather than "practice time."
- If possible, be a positive part of your child's playing time. Sit with your child while he plays and ask, "Show me what you're learning." Or, consider learning to play the instrument with your child.
- Encourage practicing with the recordings found in the book or online. This will be more fun for the student and help them play with a consistent pulse.
- Help document His/Her Practice time each week in the Practice Record & **initial**.



### **WHAT NOT TO DO**

- Don't use practice as punishment.
- Don't insist your child play for others when he or she doesn't want to.
- Don't ridicule or make fun of mistakes or less-than-perfect playing.
- Don't apologize to others for your child's weak performance.

### **A WORD ABOUT PRACTICING:**

During the first week of practice please review with your child the information found in pages 2 and 3 of their Essential Elements Book. Also review the the Start Up Video found on the DVD at the link provided in the book. This will review all materials covered during the first lesson and will help reinforce the concepts introduced.

*Remember that there are always peaks and valleys in the learning process. You and your child should expect times of discouragement, accept them, and focus on the positive fact that she's learning to make music. Remind her that everything worth doing takes time and effort.*

**SEE YOU AT OUR FIRST PERFORMANCE AT 7:00PM on DECEMBER 14th  
in the Lakeview Gym!**