

Music Rehearsal Etiquette

Preparation for Rehearsal

- Make sure that you have everything that you need for rehearsal before you arrive
- Come to rehearsal dressed comfortably and ready to learn
- Use the restroom and wash your hands before you arrive
- Come to class having mastered the previous lesson and musical passages
- Label your instrument, music book, and music folder with your name and contact information

General Practice Guidelines

- Practice the current music between rehearsals
- Rehearse your music at home until you can play through the current music from the beginning to end without stopping or making mistakes.
- Practice the current music slowly and gradually increase the tempo until you can play it at the performance tempo.
- Always sit at a chair with a music stand at your eye level when you rehearse at home.
- “sit up straight, all the way forward in your chair, feet flat on the floor, stands at your eye level, eyes on me”

When you enter the rehearsal room:

- Assemble your instrument and put the case in storage
- Put all personal belongings in the designated storage area
- Find your seat and put your music and pencil on the stand. Put your instrument stand and water bottle on the floor to the left of your feet
- Finger practice through the current music and wait for rehearsal to begin
- Do not begin playing loudly

- **NEVER** play your instrument loudly in another musician's ear

What you need for EVERY rehearsal:

- Your instrument in good working condition.
- Your music. The method book, and a 1 inch black 3 ring binder with page protectors, and binder dividers to keep your music organized
- A sharp pencil with attached eraser. No mechanical pencils please.
- An electronic tuner
- A bottle of drinking water (optional)
- **String Instruments**: rosin, shoulder rest, extra set of strings, strap, picks, capo
- **Brass Instruments**: small towel, slide/valve oil
- **Woodwinds**: 3 new reeds, neck strap, cork grease, polishing cloth, pad protectors
- **Percussion**: a practice pad, sticks (size 2A) and any mallets in a stick bag

Where to store your instrument and personal belongings in rehearsal:

- Every music class has designated areas to store instruments and personal belongings
- NEVER bring your case or other large belongings into the rehearsal area
- ALWAYS keep all cases and personal belongings out of the walking paths
- It is OK to keep a small towel, instrument stand, pencil, and water bottle at your seat during rehearsals

Music Class Rules

- Do not talk while the director is talking
- Do not play in between songs
- Do not touch instruments and equipment that does not belong to you
- Always put your case in storage and keep all walking paths clear
- Do not bring food into the rehearsal at any time

- Do not take your instrument apart
- Do not run in the rehearsal room
- Do not throw things during rehearsal

How to ask a question in music class

- Raise your hand and wait for the director to call on you.
- If the director is working with another student, raise your hand and patiently wait.
Use this opportunity to "finger practice"
- Come before class and ask your question before rehearsal begins
- Wait until a break or after rehearsal for more detailed questions
- Email your director

What to do when the director is working with another section

- Remain quiet
- Finger along. "finger practice"- hold your instrument with your fingers on the base keys. With the correct embouchure (mouth position) practice through the music that the director is teaching the other section. This is a perfect opportunity to practice the music before the director works with your section!
- **Eyes:** are tracking the music. Just like in class when we read along in a book.
- **Fingers:** are on the instrument fingering along
- **Ears:** are listening to the music of the section playing so that you can hear how your music works with the other section
- **Feet:** are quietly toe tapping along keeping time (Tempo= speed)
- **Mouth:** is on the instrument with correct embouchure, breathing along with the music, softly blowing without sounding the instrument
- Quietly ask your section leader or coach if you have any pressing questions

What to do before you leave music rehearsal

- Ask questions about the music or any upcoming musical events
- Circle the parts of your music that you need to rehearse at home
- Make any other notations in your music that we discussed during rehearsal
- Put your instrument away
- Stack your chair and stand
- Clean up your rehearsal area

Instrument Care and Maintenance:

Always wash your hands and rinse your mouth out before you play your instrument!

Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Guitar)

Bow:

- Rosin the bow hairs as needed to keep it in playing condition
- All string players need their own rosin
- Loosen the bow hairs after each rehearsal to preserve the quality of the bow

Shoulder Rest:

- Use a shoulder rest each time that you rehearse
- All Violin/Viola players must use a shoulder rest

Tuner:

- Use an electronic tuner to tune the strings before you play.

Grooming:

- Keep your left hand nails short.
- Open your hand with your palm facing you. If you can see your nails over your fingertips they are too long and need to be trimmed.

- Keep a small set of nail clippers and filer for grooming in your case.

Guitarists:

- need picks, strap, capo

Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Saxes)

- Use the swab/pad savers to dry the inside of your instrument after every use before putting the instrument back in the case.

Mouthpieces:

- Remove the reed and store it in the sleeve
- Dry the mouthpiece inside and at the connecting end
- Wash with warm water and mild soap. Do not wet the cork (clarinet)

Reeds:

- You must moisten the reed completely before playing
- Your reed must be intact in order for it to work properly
- If reeds are chipped or split they are no longer functional. Throw them away
- You need 2-3 new reeds in your case at all times.

Cork:

- Keep cork lubricated with cork grease for ease of assembly/disassembly

Tuner:

- Tune your instrument with an electronic tuner before you play

Brass (Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba...)

- Tune with an electronic tuner first

Valve/Slide Oil:

- As needed, apply valve oil to valves (Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba) or slide oil to the Trombone slide to keep these moving parts in playing condition.
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- It is important to take good care of your instrument to prevent costly repairs.
- It is important to keep instruments dry. Moisture build up from playing can cause mold and other unhealthy conditions to fester inside of your instrument.
- Wiping down your instrument after playing will remove finger prints and oils that can break down the finish on the instrument.