

## Beginning Strings Practice Tips

DO NOT USE THE BOW UNTIL INSTRUCTED IN CLASS!

For the first few weeks, just practice holding the instrument correctly (see Position Sheet) and do warm-up exercises. (5-10 minutes is plenty.)

Pick a set time each day as "practice time." Regular daily practice is better than a marathon session once a week.

Set goals for each session so that every day you improve over the day before.

Practice naming notes until you have instant recognition. Flashcards help!

When practicing from the book, be sure it is at eye level so your position is more likely to be correct. A music stand is very helpful.

Take time to check your technique. (Use a mirror!) Poor habits will make it difficult to play well, good habits will allow you to play like a pro!

As you start playing songs in the book, increase your time to 15-20 minutes each day.

Try to play along with recordings of your songs. This will allow you to hear how the songs sound, help you stay steady, and is much more fun!

Make sure to place fingers on the tapes, they are your targets. Otherwise, you won't be able to play in tune.

Practice with a friend from class!

Think of practicing like a video game: see it, do it, level up!

Realize that no one sounds great at first, it takes PRACTICE! It's OK to make mistakes, that's why you practice. Over time, you'll see progress and want to do even more!