Practice Strategies Guide



- I. CHUNK IT: Work on a small chunk at a time, then build chunks together
- 2. PENNY GAME: try to get your spot right 3 to 5 times in a row. If you get it right slide a penny from the left side of your stand to the right. If you get it right again slide another. Anytime you mess up all the pennies go back to the left and you have to start over.
- 3. ADD A NOTE: start with just a few notes. Start again adding another note... then another...
- 4. ADD A MEASURE: work measure by measure, grouping measures together as they are learned
- 5. REVERSE: start at the last measure of your section, then move back 1 measure, then 2, etc.
- 6. SLOW: Play slowly with a metronome and speed up gradually
- 7. PICK A FOCUS: what aspect of music are you focusing on? (fingerings, rhythms, bowings, dynamics, posture, staying steady (tempo), etc...)
- 8. Clap the Rhythm
- 9. Count the Rhythm
- 10. Sing your part
- II. Record yourself, then listen carefully to find errors
- 12. Practice with a friend live
- 13. Practice with a friend using Facetime/Skype/Zoom
- 14. Perform your piece for a family member
- 15. Practice in a new location
- 16. Pluck first, then add bow (string instruments only)
- 17. Practice just the bow on open strings or in the air (string instruments only)
- 18. Shadow bow while fingering the notes (string instruments only)
- 19. Tizzle/sizzle (woodwinds/brass only)
- 20. Say the note names while you finger through your part

Have Fun!