

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR ORCHESTRA STUDENT

Many parents feel they have no musical talent and therefore cannot help their child with music training. The biggest help you can give your child is ENCOURAGEMENT and UNDERSTANDING. You have already shown your support by allowing your child to participate in orchestra by purchasing or renting an instrument. The following are some suggestions as to how you can help your child:

- * Help your child arrange a regular practice time and see that he or she sticks to it.
- * Help your child find a quiet place to practice without interruption.
- * Show your interest by listening to a piece several times a week. The successful student comes from a home where the parent takes an active role in encouraging practice and giving positive reinforcement for persistence and accomplishment.
- * Keep the instrument in good repair.
- * Put all orchestra activities on your calendar so that your child will be able to attend and participate.
- * Help your child keep a record of his or her practice time between lessons.
- * Help your child remember to take the instrument and lesson book on rehearsal and lesson days.
- * Attend performances of your child's orchestra concerts.

PRACTICE HELPS

The only way to progress is through a regular, definite schedule of home practice. I encourage parents to set aside a special time and place to practice. I suggest 20-30 minutes per day. With busy schedules of homework, chores, meetings, TV, and leisure time, it is easy to make excuses for not practicing.

Just as athletes must work out daily to stay in "top condition,"
so must musicians practice daily to stay in "top condition."

We will have a practice incentive program this year at Waverly East. Each student will bring home a practice card to record his/her practice each week. Please sign their card and have your child return it in their first class of each week. The cards will be graded.