



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
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**10 Out Of 10: Strategies For Developing  
Purposeful Practice Skills In Your Band  
Students**

**CLINICIANS:  
Jay Hagy, Laura Stehn**



**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

# Texas Bandmasters Association

## July 23rd, 2022



### 10 Out Of 10:

## Strategies For Developing Purposeful Practice Skills In Your Band Students

### Presenters:

Jay Hagy – Director of Bands, Canyon Vista Middle School  
[jay\\_hagy@roundrockisd.org](mailto:jay_hagy@roundrockisd.org)

Laura Stehn – Assistant Band Director, Canyon Vista Middle School  
[laura\\_stehn@roundrockisd.org](mailto:laura_stehn@roundrockisd.org)

# Presentation Notes

- Why Talk About Practice?
  - To discuss effective strategies to help your students become self-sufficient learners/practicers.
  - To discuss how to develop a culture in your program that makes practice at-home fun for your students.
  
- Teaching Practice as a Skill
  - Front-load knowledge in your beginners
    - Rhythm Reading
    - Note Naming
    - [Musical Alphabet](#)
    - Fingerings/ Positions (brass)
  - Teach your students a process for learning new music
    - [6-step Learning New Music Process](#)
  - Teach your students “isolation” as a tool for self-guided learning
    - Identify and bracket challenging parts of the music
      - Green-Yellow-Red
      - Star-Circle Star
    - 1-2-4 Process
      - Use the 6 Steps To Learning New Music process on Measure 1, then measure 2
      - 10x10 (or fast pass) measures 1 and 2 together
      - Do the same process for measures 3&4
      - 10x10 (or fast pass) the entire 4 measures phrase
      - Un-Isolate and add to the whole musical phrase or work on the next isolated section.
  
- Practical Ideas For Improving at Home Practice
  - Practice Records
    - [Beginner Practice Record](#)
    - [Advanced Practice Record](#)
  
  - 10 out of 10 Charts (What is it?)
    - [10 out of 10 Chart](#)
    - Students keep track of repetitions on the chart
      - They must complete an assigned percentage of reps correctly for completion of an assignment.
      - Students must complete one more line of 10 reps if the assigned percentage of reps is not accomplished.
    - Charts are included with students' weekly practice records
    - Chart structures student practice at home
    - 10x10 Chart can be started from Day 1 with beginners
    - It gives students a system to structure their practice by using strategies like isolation
    - Tool for student accountability with their home practice
  
  - Using 10x10 Charts as Part of Your Classroom Routine
    - Students write down 10x10 assignments at the end of each class or sectional
    - Use 10x10 charts to keep kids accountable for practice assignments

- Students are sent to the practice room to complete assignments during class if not completed at home.
  - Part of warm-up or daily drill
    - “Check or X” game
  - “Fast Passing” (5x, instead of 10x) as part of your rehearsal technique
- Tip for Using 10x10 charts
  - For the most effective use, build this into your everyday routine
  - Keep students accountable for doing 10x10 charts by:
    - Making sure they write them down daily
    - Check them every day the first week and then randomly afterward
  - Introduce 10x10 early in the year (note name flashcards)
  - Keep assignments manageable
  - Incorporate 10x10 charts into Practice Projects
  - Coordinate use of 10x10 charts with lesson staff if possible
    - Make sure to not over-assign these 10x10 assignments if your lessons staff is incorporating them into their curriculum as well
- Fun Practice Projects
  - Beginner Band
    - [Beginner Band Licenses](#)
    - Band Olympics
  - Advanced Bands
    - Pass-Off Charts/Challenge
    - Scale Wars
  - All Levels
    - Practice Minute Challenges
- SmartMusic
  - Why we use SmartMusic
    - \$15 subscription for the group rate
    - Geared towards video-game generation
    - Essential Elements Books
    - UIL Music / Gold Band Music
  - Tips for using SmartMusic
    - Make sure to utilize it regularly if you do use it.
    - Teach kids how to use it in class.
    - Prep kids on how to manage frustration if it’s not working well for them.
- Playing Test/Chair Test
  - Playing tests are a necessary tool for assessment, but they can also be used as a motivator for practice in your students.
  - Tips for using playing tests as motivation for practice:
    - Make sure you build a safe space in your classroom
      - Have your students play in front of each other every day to build confidence
      - Celebrate every student performance from Day 1 (band clap/ foot taps)
      - Squash any negative talk immediately

- Students are not allowed to critique each other
  - Try giving ratings for playing tests instead of chair placements
    - Students are assigned groups after a test
  - Make sure the students understand they are not allowed to hyper-focus on the result.
    - Practice how they should react before the chair test with role-playing
  - I don't fail the beginners on playing test
- Tips for Improving Practice Culture in Your Band Program
  - Build confidence in your students daily!
    - If your students are confident about playing their instruments they will want to go home and practice more:)
    - Find small things to celebrate in class every day and celebrate those things hard.
  - Build your band hall as a safe place to make mistakes
    - Help your students understand that the only way to get better is to constantly learn from the mistakes they make.
  - Teach your students that the phrase "I can't do it" isn't allowed unless it's followed by the word "YET".
    - "I can't do this... YET, but I will keep working on it"
  - Make Band Fun every day!