

# IN BAND, THERE ARE FIVE PILLARS OF A GOOD PLAYER. THEY ARE:

- 1) Tone (sounding like you're supposed to)
- 2) Rhythms
- 3) Musicality (articulations, accents, dynamics etc...)
- 4) Pitch accuracy (intonation/right notes),
- 5) Posture and technique (holding the instrument right)



EACH PILLAR WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OUT OF FIVE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR EACH REPORT CARD:

- 1/5 Poor: Does not demonstrate any identifiable ability
- 2/5 Fair: Lacking in ability which is consistent with the grade level
- 3/5 Good: Skill is inconsistent usually lacking
- 4/5 Excellent: Student shows a decent, grade level ability
- 5/5 Superior: Shows a consistent grade level or above grade level ability

On top of each of these, students are graded on professionalism. Having your instrument; being on time for rehearsals; making all concerts and extra rehearsals; showing a positive learning attitude in class all contribute to a student's professionalism grade.



## WHAT TO DO?

If you are low in a particular pillar, practicing should be focused on the following.

- 1) Tone: Practice long tones with a tuner. Long slow scales, arpeggios, and octaves. 10 minutes per day.
- 2) Rhythms: practice pieces out of book. Be sure to sub-divide each rhythm carefully, remembering to clap while saying 1&2&3&4& etc... At the back of the book there is a section titled accent on rhythms; practice those.
- 3) Musicality: Practice scales with alternating tonguing and slurring patterns at a comfortable speed. Change the pattern each time. Slur slur tongue tongue etc... Crescendo going the up the scale decrescendo going down and vise versa WHILE changing articulations.
- 4) Pitch accuracy: Scales. Practice all scales with a metronome, listen so that they sound the same. Also practice tunes out of the book you know, and listen for wrong notes; you'll hear a wrong note on a tune you know. LISTEN!
- 5) Posture and technique: Edge of seat, back straight. Practice while thinking about your body position. Is it comfortable? Are your wrists straight? Carefully think about how you are sitting.



\*Remember: PRACTICE ALWAYS makes you a BETTER musician as LONG as YOU PRACTICE TO GET BETTER