

For coordinated efforts between all three corners of our Suzuki Triangle, practice sessions at home should match the priorities of the lesson and the order in which they are addressed: please see “Practicing On Your Own”.

Whenever setting goals, bear in mind the ideal and the realistic. If you are changing schools, lesson lengths, adding Saturday morning work, adding/subtracting extra curric.s, juggling friends, etc., be sure to take into account the need to incorporate patience and joy in everything. It’s one thing to want to gain a certain amount of skill (‘ground’) but usually another thing to visualize and execute the effort necessary to accomplish that ground in a fair and actual manner.

Areas of skill in which to grow:

Left-Hand Technique: Posture & Form, Intonation, Vibrato, Shifting;

>Now *you* name some left-hand skills to work on: ☺

Right-Hand Technique: Bow Hand Form, Bow Arm Form, Tone, Bow Distribution, Articulation

>Now *you* name some right-hand skills to work on: ☺

Musicianship: Dynamics, Character, Vibrato, Memorization

>Now *you* name some musicianship skills to work on: ☺

Preview Spots: Clean Action of Fingers; directness and dexterity, innumerable repetitions of **correct** finger actions, ability to demonstrate knowledge and skill with eyes closed, forward and backward, in practice technique of S/D/DD/D/SDfast/add bowings

>Now *you* name some preview spot skills to work on: ☺

Group Class Experience: Repertoire covered? Are you prepared? Did you practice anything you didn't get the last week? Technique worked on? Assignment? Friends in class? Get together outside of MacPhail ie concerts together? Practice buddies? Keep track in your practice planner. 😊

History: Composer bio? Context of piece written? Original format? i.e. String Quartet or Chorus from an opera? Or for another instrument? Have you heard your piece in its original form? Offer little reports to me or your group class. 😊

Recital Attendance: Studio Recitals, Friends' Studio Recitals, Department Recitals, Seniors' Concert, MacPhail Honors Recitals, MacPhail Master classes, Orchestra and chamber music concerts around town. Go with friends! I used to come home from a concert and practice right away, at 10 at night! (After my mom took me for a treat. 😊) Keep a record of concerts you go to. Some people just list them, others create scrapbooks. Ask any professional musician in town what they like to cook, you'll have a fun conversation! 😊
