

PARENT INFORMATION

Goals, Achievement, Awards

The staff at MWA is excited to begin this school year with the MWA Awards System in place. All existing students should have received a music participation lanyard last May. All new students will receive this first award at the Fall Performance Party. Awards will be presented at each performance event during the year. If a student has earned a reward and misses a performance party, they will be able to receive their award at the next performance party or recital. Students are encouraged to wear their lanyards to the performance events. When students collect too many pins to fit on their lanyard, a shadow box is an efficient space-saving way for at-home display.

MWA offers the opportunity to all music students to earn *PianoPins* and *StaffPins*.
Piano Pins: PianoPins are awarded to piano students for goal achievement in the following areas: repertoire, technique, theory, piano lab and rhythm. Participation PianoPins include the following: Spring Recital, Fall Festival and Piano Ensemble.
Staff Pins: StaffPins are awarded to guitar and vocal students for goal achievement in the areas of technique and repertoire. Participation in the Spring Recital earns a Recital StaffPin.

In addition, the three areas of Performance, Memory, and Practice are open to all students for a StaffPin award.

Parent Tip: *Focus on quality rather than quantity.* Ask your student what they have accomplished after a practice session rather than how long did they practice? “What sounds better?” “What’s easier?” “What’s your specific goal(s)?” – sometimes this means only focusing on the one ‘hard’ section or piece! **Practice with Intent:** Ten minutes of concentrated focus yields more than 30 minutes of aimlessly playing through the assignment.

MEMORY AWARD PIN

Performance Notebooks

Memory pieces cannot be practiced – they are finished!
The reason for taking music lessons is to learn how to PLAY, so

Play, Play, Play

1. Eight pieces at one time to earn Memory Award Pins.
2. Play beginning and ending of piece(s) out of context.
3. Label sections (numbers or letters) of piece and be able to start at any section named by the teacher
4. Why “Memory” Pieces?
 - a) **Get-in-Gear:** to encourage practice when not in the mood. Starting a practice session with a memory piece can help begin a practice session.
 - b) **Pat-on-the-Back:** piece(s) for self-esteem – a pat-on-the back when frustrated or discouraged. Intrinsic reward. Never leave a practice session upset with a difficult piece or passage. Play a memory piece to counteract frustration.
 - c) **Show Off:** performance for friends and family

5. Performance Notebook

- a) Photocopy all memory pieces for first award. Thereafter, photocopy any memorized piece and add to the notebook.
- b) Use sheet protectors to preserve the copy.
- c) All pieces in one place.....easy to find and easy to review.
- d) A great way to *see* accomplishment!

PRACTICE AWARD PIN

Ribbons, DayTimers and Pins

A. Practice Ribbons

- 1) Five stickers* in Practice and Progress book = ribbon
 - *Smiley stickers = practice time met with parental reminder to practice
 - *Stars = practice time met by student initiative with no parental reminder to practice
- 2) Parent must sign practice record and record practice time
- 3) Student must be able to verbally state *three specific goals* they worked toward during the week in order to earn a star.

B. Time Management for Older Students (7th grade - Adult)

- 4) An MWA Planner for time management skill building for 7th grade+
 - Busy week = 2-3 practice times scheduled *before the week begins*
 - Normal week = 4-5 practice times scheduled (30 minutes+) *before the week begins*
- 5) 3 – 4 written specific written goals recorded in their MWA Planner for short practice sessions of 5 – 10 minutes
- 6) 20 weeks of record keeping, goal setting and time management

C. Award Pin

- 7) Awarded *only for student initiative*
- 8) 20 stars in Practice and Progress assignment book or 20 weeks of time management in the MWA Planner = Award Pin