

## **Mira Mesa Strings Individual Practice**

Write/list student points of interest pertaining to practice on the board. (If time were no object, what would you want to work on personally?)

Difference between **practice** (learning your parts) and **rehearsal** (learning everybody else's parts)

### **Purpose of individual practicing:**

1. overall improvement
  - scales, arpeggios, bowing exercises, vibrato, octaves, use of tuner, use of mirror...
2. to learn a particular part or performance piece
  - listening, counting, deconstructing measure by measure, use of metronome, "correct" repetition, writing in helpful reminders...

### **Focal Points:**

1. right hand
  - bow hold, bow placement, technique, pizzicato...
2. left hand
  - pitch/intonation, tone, flexibility, speed, agility...
3. overall posture
  - sitting v standing, elbows, instrument placement...

### **What to Practice:**

- scales and arpeggios
- etudes
- technique: shifting, vibrato, trills, octaves...
- orchestra piece
- individual performance piece of literature (Suzuki Literature)

## How to Practice:

- use a metronome (start slowly), a tuner, a keyboard, mirror
- an audio of what you are about to practice is helpful (JW Pepper, YouTube, record it on your smart phone)
- play through as much of the piece as you know, identify your weak spots
- dissect the difficult parts: notes, measures, phrases...

## Priorities and Hacks

- Be regular in your practicing
- Listen to the piece many times
- Record yourself playing the parts. Compare.
- What you practice depends on why you are practicing: learning a piece, general practice, or prior to a performance
- Posture, pitch, tone, rhythm, tempo, (bowing and fingering)
- Always warm-up with Scales and/or Etude: (octaves and trills)
- If time select at the very beginning a variety of things to work on: easy, intermediate, and difficult
- If limited time go directly to the trouble spots - avoid distractions
- Whenever possible perform for someone: family members, friends, a pet...
- Competitive? Take private lessons

Playing in the orchestra is a team sport. You have an obligation/responsibility to the group to know your part and to play it well.