HOLIDAY MUSIC-MAKING

Practical tips for supporting your band or orchestra student during a busy holiday season

Make Music Part of the Day

Music fits into a busy season better than you might think!

- **Embrace seasonal music.** *Holiday classics, movie themes, and pop hits are fun to learn, and easy arrangements exist for almost every instrument.*
- **Build a playlist together.** *Have your student add songs that feature their instrument, then play it in the car or while you make dinner.*
- **Make it a family performance.** *Duets and trios with siblings, cousins, or friends make holiday gatherings memorable. (Grandparents love a living room concert!)*
- **Explore music beyond school.** *Community bands, youth orchestras, church groups, and local performances can provide new goals and inspiration.*

Did You Know?

Learning music strengthens communication between the brain's left and right hemisheres, helping support **learning, coordination, and creativity.**

Conversation Starters

Checking in on progress doesn't have to feel like a quiz!

Try these:

"What's your favorite piece in band or orchestra right now?"

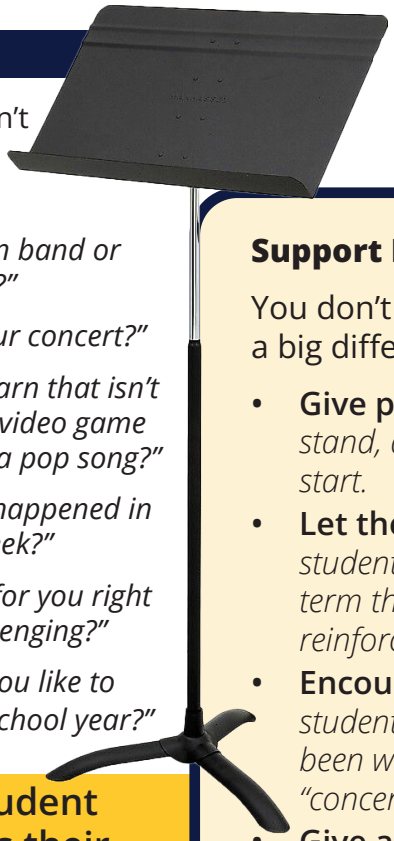
"What should I listen for at your concert?"

"Is there a song you'd love to learn that isn't in your lesson book? Maybe a video game theme, a movie soundtrack, or a pop song?"

"What was the best thing that happened in band/orchestra this week?"

"What part of music is easiest for you right now? What's the most challenging?"

"What musical goal would you like to achieve before the end of the school year?"



Support Home Practice

You don't need a musical background to make a big difference in your student's practice.

- **Give practice a home.** *A spot with a chair, a stand, and good light makes practice easier to start.*
- **Let them teach you something.** *Have your student show you a scale, rhythm, or musical term they're learning. Teaching someone else reinforces confidence!*
- **Encourage mini-performances.** *Ask your student to play one piece or section they've been working on instead of requesting an entire "concert."*
- **Give a practice-related gift.** *A music stand, metronome, new case, or fun notebook all make great holiday gifts.*

Every note your student plays at home helps their confidence grow!

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