

October 2016

Dear 6th Grade Orchestra Students (and Parents),

Now that we are moving quicker in class, practicing your note reading skills will help you as you learn new songs in orchestra class and technique. There is a free website that is a great resource for both learning to read notes and improving the speed at which you read each note. Memorizing your notes is very similar to memorizing your math facts. The quicker you are, the easier it will be, and the better you will do! Bookmark this site on your computer and practice your note reading skills. There are great free apps you can find too!

<http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note>

We are setting this up on chromebooks today in class, however here are the step-by-step directions for setting up any other device at home:

1. On the upper right side, click on the two ovals that look like an equal sign with dots to customize your settings (the icon found between the circled "i" and the small piano keyboard).
2. Click on "Clefs" -Be sure that a blue check mark appears only next to your clef:
 - a. Violins = TREBLE clef
 - b. Violas = ALTO clef
 - c. Cellos = BASS clef
 - d. Basses = BASS clef
3. Click on the blue arrow/less than sign to go back.
4. Click on "Range" - use the arrows to set the lowest note as open D as the highest note to the high D. Then, click on the blue arrow/less than sign to go back.
5. If you are new to note reading or are learning notes in a new clef, you may want to select the "Helpers" option. This will label the lines and spaces for you. Eventually, you will want to turn off this help to see if you can do it on your own.
6. Slide/click the "Accidentals" option off.
7. Now, try your best to answer your questions.
8. If you are getting really good at this, try turning on the challenge mode at the bottom of the customize screen. You may opt to see how many you can answer correctly in a certain amount of minutes (2-3 minutes). You may set a certain number of questions too.

Try to visit this website and practice your note reading skills at least three days each week. You may count this as part of the practice time for your weekly practice reflections! Once you are feeling really good about your note reading, try it with a friend, sibling or parent! See how many you can answer in two minutes and see who is faster! It will be a fun way to improve your skills.

Happy practicing!
Mrs. Lauff & Mrs. Lein

