

## PRACTICE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PIANO

(Practice does not make perfect if you do not practice perfectly.)

1. Practice should be considered as a portion of your homework. It is not something that can put off until the next day. You do your school homework on a daily basis. In correlation... you should practice your piano assignment each day. Daily practice is essential to being able to read the notes. Daily practice is essential to being able to read the rhythms. Daily practice is essential to being able to play the correct keys on the piano.
2. Practice note naming and key location each day.
3. Practice each assigned page at least three times per day. Practice trouble spots at least ten times per day until achieved.
4. Always count aloud at home and in class. Counting aloud helps you to keep a steady beat. It also helps you to keep track of where you are in the music. You will be less likely to lose your place. Experienced pianists may use a metronome to keep a steady beat. The metronome is not recommended for beginners. The metronome is difficult and frustrating for the novice pianist.
5. For performances only... think the counting. When preparing for a performance alternate counting aloud with thinking the counting.
6. When beginning a new piece always practice hands separately. When you can play each hand perfectly... it is time to play hands together.
7. Always practice slowly and carefully... observing all of the details. If you are making mistakes (wrong notes, fumbling, stopping)... you are playing too fast.
8. Keep it clean. When preparing a piece that should be performed at a fast tempo... practice the piece three times slow and one time fast to maintain solid rhythms and muscle memory.