

As a music student of 13+ years, I had rarely dealt with homework for band besides practicing the music I was given. I took private lessons, so that provided me with more content to learn, but overall, music classes in general do not give much for homework, and with every other subject in school giving hours a week, I find it probably for the best that music classes do not add much more than practicing. I think expecting between 1-3 hours a week of outside practice time, depending on upcoming events, is a fair amount to keep a student's skill level where it should be, keeping in mind that some will not need as much practice as others.

There are three different types of homework I can think of being associated with 5-12 band that involve practicing, formative assessments for skill improvements, and theory. For practicing, we would discuss at the beginning of the year my expectations for outside practice. Depending on the age, I could have them sign something involving a practice policy, or put in place practice incentives, like parental sign-off sheets where they log hours and compete against others. A lot of honor code would be involved with practice regimens, since I have no foreseeable way of proving they practiced other than through improvement observation, and because art is an abstract thing with no 'right answers,' sometimes even skill improvement can be skewed due to various factors like learning pace and instruments problems.

For formative assessments (and some summative), I have ideas for playing tests to check in on them individually to see how certain passages in music, scales, etc, are coming along in accuracy. These tests would be like 'checkpoints' to hear how my students are improving in ways that I may not catch at every rehearsal, and at the very least, I could see how they react to playing alone in a testing environment.

For theory, depending on how much time we have besides rehearsal and skill level/interest, I may add some theory days for beginning interval training, ear training, reading multiple clefs, etc, or simply add some of these concepts in with normal rehearsals if it is related to the music we are running. I could give small worksheets or ear training tests during playing tests for grades. It would simply be a small scale of written work compared to other subjects. Because of my content area, most of my grading will be rubric-based or pass/fail for performance tests. Theory homework will be a little more rare, so I'm not worried about papers piling up. I will simply have to have my grading decisions prepared ahead of time for any type of observations and listening I will be doing.