



## Ideas for Better Practicing

- Pick a time for practicing during the day when your concentration level is at its highest
- Start with a proper warm up. Think about what we do before a class or rehearsal. Then fo to the most challenging sections and practice them first, while you are most focused.
- **Start slowly!** Reinforce correctness from the very first reading. Practicing too quickly too soon reinforces *errors*
- **Use A Metronome**
- For the first readings; concentrate on establishing note accuracy, fingerings, and rhythm.
- Repeat difficult passages multiple times; stop and re-focus to see if there is improvement; if not break down the section into a note-by-note exercise.
- Practice short, sections (two or three measures)
- When you need a break from playing , use that time with your pencil to mark the music. Write and think about details of phrasing, dynamics, articulations, alternate fingerings, and rhythms.
- MEMORIZE! It works. If a passage is giving you problems, memorizer it so that you can concentrate on the notes without the distractions of the printed page.
- Try using a recording device to record yourself so that you can listen critically for areas of improvement.
- Have a classmate give you feedback about your progress and share your thoughts with them about their progress
- Seek assistance with any aspect of these practice guidelines as required