

Piano Practice Skills Grade

All keyboard students receive a weekly **Practice Skills** grade. In Canvas, these assignments are labeled with a week number (ex: Week 7). To earn this grade, students are expected to perform certain basic skills and behaviors during class. As students learn new skills and participate in additional activities, this list may expand.

Standard Practice Skills

- Be seated at assigned station by the bell
- Begin working independently on pass-offs or other required class work within 60 seconds of bell unless teacher is giving directions
- Stay productive until the bell; avoid packing up no earlier than 1 minute before class ends
- Have required materials at station every day (pencil, Alfred book, folder, pass-off list)
- Listen and maintain eye contact with director during instruction
- Maintain a quiet practice atmosphere, free of distractions
- Demonstrate effective piano posture including elongated spine, sitting on front of bench, appropriate hand/wrist position, and curved fingers
- Demonstrate music literacy by reading note names, rhythmic values, and finger numbers
- Learn rhythmic values in your music through writing/chanting counts
- Write effective notes in your music using pencil
- Develop focused practice habits, like learning one hand at a time, isolating difficult passages, repetition of short passages; Avoidance of “playing through” song with no focus

Essential Question

Is there a difference between **playing** music and **effectively practicing it**?

Learning Goal

Student will independently demonstrate practice skills in a music rehearsal.

Student Name: _____ Period _____ Week _____

Piano Practice Skills Rubric

Preparedness: Student is equipped with their Alfred book, pencil, folder, and pass off list daily. Student is never tardy, but always seated and ready to practice when tardy bell rings. Assignments are completed on time.

Posture: Student consistently models correct piano posture: elongated spine, shoulders relaxed and down, feet flat on the floor, sits on the front of the bench, and adjusts bench to appropriate height and distance from keyboard.

Strategies: Student is consistently focused on pass-offs or instruction when appropriate, uses their music literacy skills to read note names, and employs effective practice strategies: learn small sections, hands separately, hands together slowly, counting out the rhythms, writing in select finger numbers and note names, avoidance of “playing through” a song with no focus, and isolating challenging beats/chords/measures.

Technique: Student consistently plays with the correct fingers (12345, 54321), maintains curved/arched fingers, wrists above the keyboard, and elbows at the sides.

Frequency	Preparedness	Posture	Strategies	Technique
Consistently	4	4	4	4
Frequently	3	3	3	3
Sometimes	2	2	2	2
Rarely	1	1	1	1
Not using	0	0	0	0

Total points earned: _____

Grading scale: A = 15-16 | B = 13-14 | C = 11-12 | D = 9-10 | F = 0-8