

Student Expectations

A student's progress will vary based on several factors. Learning styles, physical, mental and emotional maturation, dental appliances (braces) and other factors must be considered with each student. Here are some general expectations.

Junior High/Middle School

In Texas, most students enter band programs in sixth or seventh grade. By eighth grade, they should be able to play this range:



Some students may exceed this range on one end or both, while others will struggle to meet this expectation. It is assumed that by meeting this range, it is done with a good sound, proper support and control. Basic technical challenges such as scales and arpeggios should be executed at a moderate, steady tempo. The student should have a firm grasp of flat and sharp key scales through at least 5 flats and 4 sharps.

High School

Because of the various reasons that students continue in band programs, the requirements will vary more than in the junior high/middle school level. Some will only play their instrument during band class. The majority will practice and will serve the program well, with no thought of continuing with music beyond high school. A few will consider music as a profession, and will motivate themselves to go beyond these standards:



This will vary from student to student. Technical demands should become easier now that the student has played for at least 3 or 4 years. Major scales in all keys should be expected, and for the students considering majoring in music, minor scales should be introduced *before* they enter college!