Teaching & Assessing Home Practice

Teacher Name | Subject | Date

State Standards

Standard:

Objective:

Assessment:

Learning Objective

Students will learn how to practice at home in an effective, efficient way.

Demonstration of Learning (Assessment)

Students will record a home practice session using SmartMusic, evaluate its success, and submit it to the teacher.

Guiding Question

How we know our at-home practice was effective?

Lesson Sequence

Hook:

Warm up: using the warm up exercise of your choice, slowly speed up the exercise (perhaps starting slower than normal), to show students how slowly accelerating is an important part of practice.

Activity:

Project a difficult movement from "SmartMusic Exercises: Rhythms" on the board. Ask students "How would you practice this at home?" Have students show the class how they would begin the practice process.
Using a metronome on a slow setting, have students clap the rhythm in the piece. Between each attempt, play back the piece using SmartMusic and then slow down the metronome again until the class perfectly claps the rhythm, then begin speeding the metronome back up. Continue playing the selection between each attempt.
Ask students "why were we able to play this faster when we sped up slowly?" Don't accept superficial answers like "because you made us practice." Get students thinking about why, specifically, the slow acceleration provided needed structure to the practice and contributed to an error-free learning environment.

Notes & Materials

- SmartMusic TEACH Free, including assignments and custom rubric
- pencils
- projector and device for putting SmartMusic on the board
- metronome
- tuner

NAfME	TI:ME Standards	Lesson Sequence (cont.)	Notes & Materials
Standard: NAfME 2014 Ensemble Standards *Objective:* - Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context. - Evaluate and refine selected musical ideas to create musical work that meets appropriate criteria. - Evaluate and refine personal and ensemble performances. - Support personal evaluation of musical works and performances. *Assessment:* Students will record a home practice session using SmartMusic, evaluate its success, and submit it to the teacher.	*Activity:* Using the same exercise on the board in SmartMusic, have students identify the pitches used in the exercise and play them, one at a time, with a tuner. For each pitch, have students think about the technical demands of playing the pitch in tune (for example, trumpets kicking out a third valve slide). Then, with the metronome back on a slow setting, play through the exercise. Slowly accelerate as before, being sure only to increase tempo when the entire ensemble plays the exercise with 100% correct pitches and rhythms. *Activity:* Once students have mastered the pitches and rhythms, begin adding dynamics. You can change these as necessary to create interest or build exciting phrases. Ask students to repeat back the steps of the practice strategy -- rhythms, then pitches, then dynamics, accelerating each time. *Wrap up:* Use the remainder of class to work on any concert repertoire that needs work. Model the techniques described in the activities as you rehearse the passage.	
	Differentiation - At-home practice assignments can be customized based on student ability and learning style. - Students can be given a choice of assignments. - Scaffolding during instruction helps ensure all students are keeping up with the material.	
	Homework Create two assignments using the "SmartMusic Exercises: Rhythms" movement that best match your ensemble's ability level. Create one sight-reading assignment to be completed at the beginning of the practice session, then another regular assignment with a custom rubric that requires students to assess the progress they made during the practice session.	