**SMART MUSIC INSTRUCTIONS**

**2018-2019**

(Updated 10/8/18)

**TO JOIN YOUR CLASS/SET-UP YOUR ACCOUNT**

1. Go to [https://admin.smartmusic.com/join](https://admin.smartmusic.com/join%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
2. Bay View students, it’s all under one Westlake account (it was cheaper to lump it together).
3. Enter your  email and class code:

**FIRST CLASS LEVEL (Beginning Band starts here):** 7YCHV-6CJUH

**MASTER LEVEL:** 4HYGR-XNGEN

**ARTIST LEVEL:** 7TQ4E-2M7XW

**SENIOR ARTIST LEVEL**: NT7YC-NQVE6 (not quite finished setting up yet)

**VIVACE LEVEL:** NQXAR-U7MEJ (not quite set up yet)

**FINE LEVEL:**  MWXAZ-GNYNK (not quite set up yet)

1. Click CONTINUE
2. You are about to join: Westlake Elementary School (Your Level) with Katrina Haeger
3. Click CONFIRM AND JOIN THIS CLASS
4. Follow the instructions on-screen.
5. While parents should set up the account (and confirm 13 years or older), please use the STUDENT’S FIRST/LAST NAME when creating the account so it shows up in my gradebook.
6. Please note that our clarinets are “Bb Clarinet”; saxophones are “Eb Alto Saxophone”; trumpets are “Bb trumpet”; trombones are just trombone, NOT trombone TC; baritones are “Baritone BC”, Percussion is either “Percussion” or “Drums”, and keyboard percussion is “Mallet Percussion”.
7. Check your email and click the CONFIRM button.

**TO PRACTICE AN ASSIGNMENT**

1. Use Smart Music TO PRACTICE in the beginning. Don’t focus on PASSING SONGS YET.
2. Log in to your account
3. Click the “house” icon to get to your home page
4. Scroll down to “My Classes” and click the level you are working on
5. Hover over your class and click on “See All Assignments”
6. Using the sticker chart in your Practice Journal, look for the number of the assignment you need to practice, starting with #7 “Band On Parade”
7. Find the assignment in the assignments list. Unfortunately, they are not always in numerical order and you may need to scroll through to find the number you’re looking for.
8. Click on your assignment. Within the assignment page click “Complete Assignment”.
9. Choose your instrument part. Please note that our clarinets are “Bb Clarinet”; saxophones are “Eb Alto Saxophone”; trumpets are “Bb trumpet”; trombones are just trombone, NOT trombone TC; baritones are “Baritone BC”, Percussion is either “Percussion” or “Drums”, and keyboard percussion is “Mallet Percussion”.
10. Slide the “Accompaniment” down to under 1/3 of the way.
11. Click the speaker next to “My part” to make sure it’s not on mute and slide the volume to maximum.
12. Turn the metronome up to at least half way.
13. As the music starts getting more difficult in the book, you will want to be able to slow it down to a speed (tempo) that is easier to practice with. To do this, click the minus “-“ button next to “Tempo” to slow it down. It will turn red and a red “!” will show up where the record button was as you cannot test at a slower tempo than the default.
14. As you get better with the piece, just speed it up a few notches each time until you are able to play it at the default tempo given. Click the round arrow button to go back to the default tempo.
15. Push the “Play” button. The metronome will give you a 4 beat count off (unless the piece is in ¾ time).
16. Follow the “Recipe For Success” each time you push the “Play” button:
	1. Sing the piece, if it has words (or listen to it/hum along)
	2. Clap and count the rhythm.
	3. Point and sing the note names.
	4. Finger the notes while saying the note names.
	5. Play the piece slowly at first, then speed up later.
17. **TROUBLESHOOTING:**
	1. If you are using an ipad, I’ve read there is an app in the works to help with the display being too small. This is disappointing as the new Smart Music was supposed to support MORE tablets, not take away from what already worked ☹
	2. Some students have mentioned that they had to use the Chrome browser in order for Smart Music to work on their computer. If you already have Chrome, update it.

**TO RECORD AND SUBMIT AN ASSIGNMENT**

1. Make sure you have practiced the piece with the “Recipe For Success” first.
2. Click on “Assessment” up in the grey area.
3. Click “Calibrate Mic” to make sure your microphone is working properly (if you get scores that don’t seem correct in the future, sometimes the mic is the problem. Try using headphones with a built in microphone or a different computer. Sometimes, rarely, a separate microphone is needed and can be purchased directly from Smart Music).
	1. Personal story: Even though I had calibrated my mic a few times, for some reason it wasn’t picking up when I tried to tune. So I clicked on “Calibrate Mic” again and it said it wasn’t set properly. It walked me through the settings I have for my computer and the internet. This is always a place to reset, especially if you’ve switched computers between practice sessions. Also, one day it kept telling me my microphone was not calibrated and even though I went through all the chrome settings, it still didn’t work. Only after closing down Chrome and/or resetting my computer did it work. I know, frustrating but good to know.
4. Tune your instrument. If your instrument is not in tune, you will not get a good score (excludes percussion/keyboard percussion). Go to mrshaeger.wikispaces.com, click on your instrument page and click on “Tuning Your Instrument”.
	1. Learn how to tune your specific instrument from the video.
	2. If the video tells you to purchase a tuner, DON’T. There is a tuner on Smart Music.
	3. Go back to the Smart Music assessment page and click on “Tuner”.
	4. Use the information you learned in the tuning video to tune your individual instrument.
	5. In band we use “Concert Pitch” to describe the note we want everyone to play. Usually we use the concert pitch “Bb”, which is what flutes, trombones, baritones, and mallet percussion will play (though you don’t need to tune mallet instruments). Clarinets and trumpets will play an open C and saxophones will play G, but the tuner will read “Concert Pitch Bb”.
	6. Read the needle on the tuner and figure out which way to adjust your instrument.
	7. After you’re all tuned and have practiced the piece several times, you’re ready to try testing.
5. Mute “My Part” so the computer doesn’t test itself. Remember, you’re trying to get better at your instrument, not just learn how to “beat the system” ☺
6. Mute “Accompaniment” so it’s not hearing itself and giving you bad scores.
7. Turn the metronome to about a quarter, or even less if you can. Again, we don’t want it grading itself and this has been a big issue, especially during the rests.
8. Click on “Assessment”. Drummers click “Perc./Clap Mode”.
9. Press the “Record” button and play the piece.
10. Look at your score and see if you’ve reached 90% or above. If you didn’t reach 90% or above, DO NOT SUBMIT the song. You haven’t reached a performance ready level and probably need to go back to your “Recipe For Success” to figure out what is wrong.
11. **IF YOU REACHED 90% OR ABOVE:**
	1. Click “Save” to save your score.
	2. If you didn’t get 100%, try a few more times to see if you can perfect your performance a bit.
	3. When you are satisfied with your score (above 90%), click on the arrow in the box of scores and select the one you want to submit.
	4. Mark off in your PRACTICE JOURNAL with a star, circle, or check mark the song you submitted and remember to put a sticker on it next time you are in class. This will enter it in my gradebook but you will be responsible for keeping track of the pieces you have passed and putting stickers on the chart. This is ON YOUR HONOR. Please don’t put stickers up for pieces you haven’t passed with 90%.
	5. CONGRATULATIONS!
12. **IF YOU DID NOT REACH 90% (TROUBLESHOOTING):**
	1. Click on the notes that turned up red. Click the bottom left of the note to make sure you have the fingering correct. Click the bottom right of the note to make sure the note coming out of your instrument is the note you hear.
	2. Click the “Playback” button (blue arrow with red dot) to hear a recording of yourself. Can you identify what is wrong?
	3. Are you playing the rhythm correctly? Are you playing each note EXACTLY when the blue line reaches it? Do you know your note names? How about fingerings? What about your embouchure (mouth position…are your cheeks puffed out, reed broken, etc.)?
	4. Make sure you’ve muted the accompaniment and maybe even the metronome. This has been getting people very low scores when the computer hears itself.
	5. Try using a different microphone. If you are blowing into an instrument with air, many students find the headphone/microphone combination helpful as this way you can listen to the music but it will only record your instrument. Percussionists may consider trying a different external microphone that plugs into the usb jack.
	6. Contact customer service by clicking the HELP button. Because this is new to me AND I cannot see your computer/settings/etc. AND I’m not an IT expert, it will help them understand the common issues and hopefully fix them sooner.
	7. If you continue recording and having difficulty getting a score above 90%, submit your best recording, leave a comment in the comment section how many times you practiced it AND EMAIL ME at khaeger@sccs.net to let me know you need me to listen and give you feedback. If you do not email me, I will not know to listen to it.