

20 Reasons Students Don't Practice

1. They didn't sign up to practice

- Prequalify your potential students
- Be up front about practice expectations

2. They don't think you care

• Students will put in effort when you do

3. They don't believe they can succeed

• Read the book *Mindset* by Carol Dweck

4. They don't know what to do

• Give clear oral and written assignments

5. They don't know where to start

- Teach them how to practice
- Try the practice video game approach

6. It doesn't work

- Try blocked practice
- Check out *The Bullet Proof Musician* blogs for more ideas

7. They can't figure out how to fit it into their already busy life

- Discuss scheduling
- Ask parents
- 10 Minute Practice Pledge

8. They feel overwhelmed with so much to practice

- Adjust the level or the amount
- Divide assignments

9. They get hung up on the basics

- Drill basics
- Teach sight reading

10. Their parents are no help

- Invite parents to lessons
- Become a team with parents

11. They depend on the teacher to fix everything

- Let students tell you what they did wrong
- Let students mark the music
- Turn lessons into a quiz show

12. They don't understand the benefit

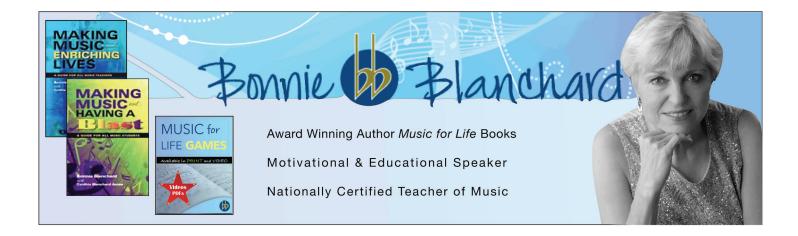
• Show them theory in action in their music

13. They don't have a goal

Create many performance opportunities

14. They just watch the clock

- Abandon practice charts
- Be goal-oriented instead of time-oriented



15. They don't like the music

- Give students input
- Use a hard piece as a carrot

16. They're not organized

- Make a checklist of things to bring to the lesson
- Ask them to mark off each practice assignment when done

17. They're tired of the same old practice assignments

- Use recordings and YouTube
- Practice in a different order
- Create movies, stories and songs

18. They need a reward

- Coveted stickers or practice points
- Parents reward systems
- Your praise!!

19. Lessons are boring

- Do something different
- Have some fun!

20. They're just plain lazy or they don't want to be there

- We can't save everyone
- Save yourself