

**MAKING MUSIC ENRICHING LIVES**  
A GUIDE FOR ALL MUSIC TEACHERS

**MAKING MUSIC HAVING A Blast**  
A GUIDE FOR ALL MUSIC STUDENTS

**MUSIC for LIFE GAMES**  
Available in PRINT and VIDEO

**Bonnie Blanchard**  
with Cynthia Blanchard Ames

**Bonnie Blanchard**

**Award Winning Author *Music for Life* Books**

**Motivational & Educational Speaker**

**Nationally Certified Teacher of Music**

## 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

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**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