## SAMA Monthly

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## **Instructor Corner**

To Anyone with Kids in Music Lessons



It takes a village to raise a musician.
No, seriously.
All too often I encounter people who approach their child's music

lessons with the thought that, "If my kid really loves it, he/she will stick with music without me having to pressure them." While the idea of not pressuring children to do music is very healthy, the idea that a child should be left to "sink or swim" on their own in music is not realistic, and not conducive to success.

Would a parent use that approach with school? Perhaps some do, and with mixed results. More often, however, a parent is there to nurture, encourage, help find incentives, and work through rough spots in their child's schooling to help pave the way for his/her success. And so it ought to be with other endeavors, such as music lessons. The reality of music is that it is hard work.

Hard and ultimately satisfying, but hard nonetheless.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to how a parent could or should be involved, but knowing how a child functions best, what motivates them, how they learn, etc. all play into the picture.

The biggest part of the music learning process is the week at home away from the teacher where the

music student ought to be practicing. I often remind my students that I can't be there at home with them to make sure they practice (lucky them!). If the lesson is the place where most of the weekly practicing takes place, then prospects of progressing are already sadly diminished.

As you are able, be involved at home with your student's music learning. Without you, the "music learning team" is surely incomplete!

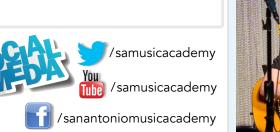
-Mark Campbell SAMA piano instructor



"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, & life to everything."

-Plato







## Student of the Month Baylor F.

"Baylor is always prepared and excited to learn new things in his lessons. He has even worked on learning how to memorize his music. Baylor is a grade A student with a can-do attitude." Congrats, Baylor!

-Tom Sprayberry, guitar instructor