

Woodsfield Elementary Band
BEGINNER TROMBONE NOTES

Practice going over these steps for a while as a beginner. Memorize how it feels. While it is good to go over these things, do not put too much thought toward them while you are playing music. It can get in the way! If you are having difficulty while playing, refer to this list to figure out where the problem may be. Have fun getting to know your new instrument!

LEFT HAND:

1. The left hand holds the entire weight of the instrument!
2. Wrap your thumb around the corner where the bell brace and slide meet.
3. Point your first finger over the mouthpiece.
4. Wrap your other fingers gently around the stationary slide brace.
5. Keep your wrist straight.

RIGHT HAND:

1. This hand ***DOES NOT SUPPORT*** the trombone's weight!!! That is your **other hand's** job. ***NEVER let your right hand touch the inner slide while playing!***
2. Your thumb and first two fingers will adjust the slide to all of the different notes.
-Place your **thumb across from your first two fingers** on the **movable slide brace**.
3. Move those three fingers downwards to the **BOTTOM HALF OF THE BRACE**.
-Doing so allows your wrist to move as freely as possible.
4. Your wrist should be in the shape of a "**SALUTE.**" **KEEP IT RELAXED!!!**

PLAYING POSITION:

1. Sit with proper posture! **STRAIGHT/RELAXED SPINE** from back of head down to tailbone.
2. Instrument Angle
-Your instrument should be roughly **PARALEL TO THE GROUND** (90 degrees from your face) **OR** pointed **SLIGHTLY LOWER than parallel**.
Remember, trombones are not clarinets, so no holding them like that!
3. **STAY RELAXED!!!** Keep your shoulders relaxed and elbows away from your body.
5. **YOUR SLIDE IS YOUR LIVLIHOOD AS A PLAYER. TREAT IT KINDLY.**
-You have an **important responsibility** to **CONSTANTLY CARE FOR YOUR SLIDE**. Follow all lubrication instructions in your book **REGULARLY**.
-When carrying your instrument around, **THE SLIDE SHOULD ALWAYS BE LOCKED**. When sitting your instrument on the floor, **ARRANGE IT SO THE SLIDE IS POINTING UP!!!** *Laying your trombone on the slide CAN PUT IT OUT OF ALIGNMENT OR WORSE!*

EMBOUCHURE:

1. Say "mmmmmm" to get your lips into position. They should press together lightly. -The "pink" part of the lip needs to still be showing.
2. Pull the corners of your mouth back - **FIRM CORNERS!**
3. Bring the mouthpiece to **THE CENTER OF YOUR LIPS**.
4. Take a deep breath and direct a **FAST STREAM OF AIR** right through the center of the mouthpiece. Remember! Your air is like a water **hose** turned on **full blast!**

MAKING CORRECTIONS:

- No puffed out "blowfish cheeks!" Firm/anchored Corners will help this issue.
- If you are not getting a buzz, make sure your lips are touching, your corners are firm, and your air is fast! Remember! Your air is a hose turned on full blast!
- If your sound is too low:** Roll in your bottom lip slightly and think faster air.
- If your sound is too high:** Relax your bottom lip slightly and think about making a bigger airstream. (still just as fast!)
- STAY RELAXED!!!**