

Woodsfield Elementary Band  
BEGINNER TRUMPET 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. Fingers

- Place your first finger under the bell, just behind the third valve.  
-THIS IS ONE OF YOUR ANCHOR POINTS! (#1)
- Put your third or fourth finger (whichever is most comfortable) in the third valve slide ring. Don't be tricked – this is NOT an anchor point!
- Wrap your other fingers around the valve pistons.

**RIGHT HAND:**

1. Place your thumb under the lead pipe between valves 1 and 2.

- THIS IS ONE OF YOUR ANCHOR POINTS! (#2)

2. Valves – Put your first, second and third fingers on the valves.

- Curve your fingers into a “C” so that your FINGER TIPS are resting on the valve buttons. You will not be able to play fast notes with flat fingers!
- Keep your fingers on the valves at ALL times!

3. Rest your pinky ON TOP of the little-finger hook. This hook is only to be used for carrying the instrument around. Using it while playing over-stretches your tendons, increasing tension and decreasing finger performance on the valves.

**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**, brass instruments are not clarinets, so no holding like that!

3. **STAY RELAXED!!!** Keep your shoulders relaxed and wrists straight!

4. Elbows (IMPORTANT!) - Keep elbows from touching your sides.

**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!**

**THE TWO TRUMPET "ANCHOR POINTS":**

- The weight of the instrument should be balanced or "anchored" in these 2 places:  
-LH First Finger                      -RH Thumb    (see above for finger placements)

**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!!!**