



ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



Trombone

MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

For Trombone Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

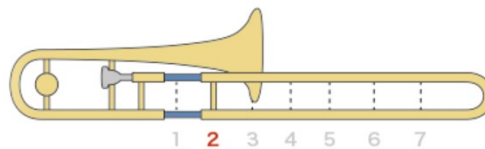
<https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>

Weekly Focus: Playing low notes

Getting your lips to cooperate when you want to play notes in the low area of the staff can be tricky. Understanding ***how you move your lips, or embouchure, is the key to playing low notes.*** Why? Because trombone players are part of the ***low brass*** section in a band or orchestra and we need to be able to adjust our lips and breath to make low notes sound strong and clear.

Explanation of Lesson Focus:

Trombone players play in the bass clef, which means that we are a low instrument. We are part of the ***low brass family***, which means, compared to other brass instruments like the trumpet, our notes are much lower. We are going to look at the note “A” that sits on that bottom space of the music staff. Below is a picture of the note on the staff, and a picture of where second position is to play this note:



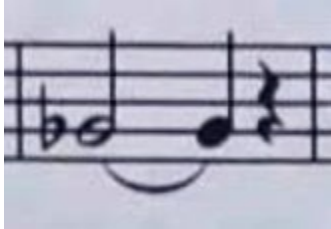
Warm Up

To get your lips, or ***embouchure*** (pronounced “ahm-boh-sure”) in shape, we will start with some buzzes. Take your mouth piece only and buzz into it without your instrument. Buzz some long sounds; buzz some high sounds; and buzz some low sounds. ***To buzz high we tighten our lips by pulling back on the corners of our mouth and blow warm, fast, air. To buzz low we loosen our lips by pointing our chin to the ground and still blow that warm fast air.*** When you point your chin to the ground, it will loosen your lips allowing you to play low notes with a good sound. Do buzz warm ups for about 3-5 minutes.

Musical Excerpts

We will begin by playing #36 **Mark Time** on p. 11, *Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Trombone* by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. (attached to this sheet).

Some reminders before we play. Before you begin, look for the **tie** in the music.



When you see a line that connects two of the same pitches it is called a **tie**. **Tied notes are played as one unbroken pitch** as you can see in the picture to the left, the Bb half note tied to the Bb quarter note is held for a total of 3 beats.

The second pitch in *Mark Time* is that low A in 2nd position. Be ready to point your chin to the ground so your lips can vibrate to get a solid sound. Play through this song several times until that A sounds nice and clear.

Next play **#37 Sweetly Sings the Donkey Round**. If you can record yourself playing the song once, play along as a round like this:

1. Record yourself playing *Sweetly Sings the Donkey Round*
2. Start the recording, when your recorded self gets to the measure with the 2 above the 4th measure, start playing with the recording

Practice Strategies

I like to think about practicing by using the word **BRASS**. Each letter represents a concept you should try to do every time you practice: **B- buzz** and **breath**. Warm-up by buzzing on your mouthpiece only and always blow with warm, fast, air.

R- repetition and rest. Always play exercises, warm-ups and small sections of bigger songs many times and make sure you rest your lips.

A- articulation and agility. Tongue notes; slur notes and do lip slurs to keep your lip muscles in shape.

S- sing it! Try and sing your music before you play it. If you can sing it, you can play it.

S- share it! After you learn a song, share it with family and friend