Beginning Band Parent Night

November 4, 2026

Playing the Trumpet

Mr. Hodges
mhodges@ksd140.org
Band Website: https://www.ksd140.org/band/beginning-band

Good evening and welcome! Tonight, we hope to give you some insight into your child's music education.

I. Instrument Assembly, Care and Maintenance

A. Oiling the Valves

1. Use valve oil only
2. Oil the valves one at a time.
3. Turn the valve clockwise until it "clicks" into position.

B. Cleaning the mouthpiece

1. The mouthpiece should be cleaned once a week preferably with a trumpet mouthpiece brush. This brush can be purchased anywhere band instruments are sold.
2. Use only warm water and mild soap. Do not use any type of abrasive cleaners or brushes. DO NOT BOIL!!!

C. Cleaning the inside of the trumpet

1. Those of you who are renting your instrument from Quinlan and Fabish are covered for cleanings. Simply notify the store that you will be sending the instrument in for a clean and flush and they will provide a loaner for your students to use in the interim. Once per year is recommended!

D. Cleaning the outside of the trumpet

1. Keep a clean, lint free towel or rag in your case. Simply wipe down the outside of the trumpet when you are done playing to eliminate any damage to the finish.
2. Most of you have trumpets that have a lacquer finish. Polishing cloths and supplies are available at reputable band instrument dealers like Quinlan and Fabish.

II. Practice Procedures -- *"Only practice on the days you eat."*

Daily practice is essential to attain success on your instrument. Keep track of your practice time on the practice chart in your book. **See instructions on last page for Essential Elements Interactive.**

A. Posture - Sit as you stand
B. Deep Breath
C. Embouchure - The muscles used in producing a tone
D. Attack - Using the tongue to release the air (whisper TOO or TOE)
E. Sustain the Air - Blow OUT of the instrument
F. Maintain a steady, clear tone

Please bear in mind that the greatest obstacle to your child's success is lack of practice. **Be sure to help them *make time* for daily practice (15 to 20 minutes).** At this point, putting their instrument together correctly, making a good sound and being able to identify (read) the notes and rhythms is most important so that they don't get discouraged. Be encouraging and remind them that it's only five notes at this point. If they can spell five letter words like "house" or "store", they have the ability to memorize and perform five notes.

The following is a breakdown of how to practice each day.

1. 3 minutes of mouthpiece buzzing – long tones, sirens, songs

2. 5 minutes of long tones – practice holding each note as long as possible. No Puffy Cheeks. USE A MIRROR! Go for a steady sound with no hiccups

3. 15 minutes (or more) practicing assignment in book
    - Count & Clap
        - Hold each note for its assigned value.
        - Keep steady tempo. Don't speed up or slow down. Have a pencil!
    - Sing Notes (chin practice)
        - Sing the note name while moving the valves to the correct position for that note.
    - Play
        - Play the exercise until it is perfect. This will not happen overnight. You have all week from the time it is assigned until your band director listens the following week.

III. Listen to the Masters

Nothing beats seeing live music. You can't expect to be a good musician if you don't know what good musicians are supposed to sound like. If you don't have access to professional recordings, performing a YouTube search can allow students to hear outstanding professional musicians performing on their instrument.

Search these names on <u>YouTube</u> followed by the instrument….

Alison Balsom, Wynton Marsalis, Chris Botti, Louis Dowdeswell, Wayne Bergeron, Doc Severinsen, Michael Sachs, Esteban Batallan, Chris Martin, Maurice Andre, Adolph Herseth, Arturo Sandoval, Terrance Blanchard, The Canadian Brass, The Julliard Trumpet Ensemble. There are many, many more. Find what you like and listen often!

U.S. Army Field Band Education Videos
Scan QR Code → Opens a YouTube playlist



IV. Private Instruction

Regardless of whether your child is having a difficult time or is progressing well, private instruction is the most ideal way to maximize your child's musical development. You should always consult your band director when seeking a private teacher. Be sure to ask questions. Where did the teacher go to music school? How long have they been teaching? What age levels do they currently teach? Does the teacher currently perform professionally? What organizations do they perform with?
These are all valid questions and will be welcomed by any teacher that is worth his or her salt.

V. Music Games and Resources

https://www.ksd140.org/band/music-resources

VI. Conclusion

We hope we have shed some light on the process of what your student is going through during these first steps of their musical journey. Remember, learning to play a musical instrument really is a lifelong endeavor. We never stop growing. Throughout middle school, high school, college and beyond, playing a musical instrument gives your child many unique advantages both academically, socially, and emotionally. Students who learn to play a musical instrument achieve higher test scores than those who don't. Music is truly an international language. It breaks all barriers and expresses that which words cannot. We thank you for supporting your child's music education and look forward to your continued participation in the band program.

Musically yours,

Mr. Hodges

Essential Elements Interactive

Please follow these instructions carefully to create an account and use the practice resources for Essential Elements Interactive (EEi):

1. https://www.essentialelementsinteractive.com/register/DistriBa42
   School: District 140
   Director: Mark Hodges
2. At the "Create Student Account" page, select
   No, I do not have an EEi Student ID
3. Please enter the information required and click Submit.
4. Enter your Book Activation Code. This is located at the bottom of the first page of your Essential Elements band book.

SCAN ME

EEi contains background tracks for all exercises in the Essential Elements book and video tutorial lessons. This is a free resource!