Beginning Band Parent Night
The Trumpet-Presented by Mr. Szczasny

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.
- 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. Producing A Quality Sound
- 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

III. Daily Practice Procedures
- A. Breathing Exercises
- B. Mouthpiece Buzzing
- C. Long Tones
- D. Book Assignments
  1. Count and Clap
  2. Sing and Finger (Chin Singing)
  3. Play!

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Students should aim for 20-30 minutes of daily practice. We realize that some days this will not be possible but the only way to strengthen the muscles of the embouchure is by actually playing the instrument. Remember, some practice is always better than no practice.

IV. Private Instruction

A. 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. Listening

A. It is very important for students to listen to great players. By listening to professional players, young musicians will develop a solid concept of what their instrument should sound like when they play. You Tube is an invaluable resource. Watch and listen to players like Wynton Marsalis, Doc Severinsen, Michael Sachs, 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!

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. Szczasny