

The Basics for BRASS

Posture and Holding Position

- **Sit your very tallest**, as if you were standing from the waist up. Have your head straight and tall.
- Everyone is different! **Bring the instrument to you** do not come to the instrument. The mouthpiece should come to you without moving your neck or head.

Do not lower your head or neck to play the instrument!

- Your right hand should remain near the valves at all times.
All three fingers on all the valves at all times!

Setting Your Embouchure: EYE-MM-BUZZ!

- **Keep your corners back and firm** as if you were saying "EYE." Avoid a smile or frown.
- **Bring your lips together** as if you were saying "MM." Avoid puckering or swallowing your lips.
- **Have your lips buzz** by blowing air through them.

Starting a Note: SET-BREATHE-TONGUE

- Set your embouchure.
- **Breathe in from the corners of your mouth**, not your nose. Make the air go to the bottom of your stomach.
- **Start the buzzing by tonguing** as if you were saying "TWO". Avoid spitting the lips out to start a note.

LOW NOTES= RELAXED WARM AIR!

HIGH NOTES= FAST, FOCUSED, COOL AIR!