

# MOST COMMONLY MISSED ERRORS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



## FLUTE

### Posture

- Front of chair (avoid hooking arm on chair back)
- Flute Droop - (try pencil trick)
- Spacing - (use V formation)

### Tone

- Missing tone hole (locker mirror)
- Wide air stream (try Poo)
- No sound - missing tone hole (go back to small instrument/ adjust arm position)
- Flute Droop (missing tone hole)

### Finger Positions

- Watch bottom thumb placements
- Watch for other “helping fingers”
- Flying fingers - (tennis ball position)

### Intonation

- C, C#, Eb (always a mile sharp)



## CLARINET

### Horn Angle

- Just outside knees

Watch for arms on legs/tucked elbows.

Watch for “helping fingers” under side keys”

Watch for adjusting to knuckle on thumb.

### Embouchure

- Too much bottom lip roll (chap stick)
- Watch out for double lip Embouchure
- Weak corners (chew toy)
- Correct Embouchure (whee-too)
- Too little mouthpiece (correct amount is where the reed and mouthpiece come together)

Watch for “Magic Pinkie”

Going over the break (must prep WAY in advance)

Teach chromatic fingerings and their use

Avoid nasty or broken reeds

- Reed Graveyard
- Number their reeds



## SAXOPHONE

Much of clarinet tips apply here as well.

### Posture

- Adjust horn to you, not you to horn
- Watch for setting horn on seat
- Watch mouthpiece angle for side players

Watch for “helping fingers” hitting side keys

Chromatic/and Bb fingerings and usage

Octave key issues



## TRUMPET

### Posture

- Front of seat
- Watch for tucked in elbows to help hold (this leads to playing down and too much pressure on bottom lip)

### Finger Positions

- Watch for “helping pinkie” left pinkie is placed in TOP of pinkie ring, not inside it.
- Watch for flat fingers on valves and flying fingers (tennis ball trick)

### Embouchure Issues

- Buzz A Lot (light hold)
- Red ring indicates pressure
- Clinched teeth
  - Straw or pencil between teeth
  - Point chin more (chin connected to teeth)
- Watch out for “chin berry”

“D” is the Devil - worst note on horn

4th line/space, 6th partial sharp (all brass)

Whole Tone scale to develop range

# MOST COMMONLY MISSED ERRORS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



## FRENCH HORN

Posture and Holding position

- Right leg can slide to adjust height
- Lead pipe needs to angle down
- Right hand issues

Horn Embouchure (2/3 up -1/3 down)

When to start/switch

What range to use?



## TROMBONE

Holding position

- Shoot with your left (gun position)
- Balance horn on only left hand (lock slide first)

Resting position (esp. on the ground)

Positions work on graduated scale (2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are always wrong)

Trigger is NOT a crutch

- When to use it
- How to tune it

Alter position by partials (slide adjustments)

Correct Legato Tonguing (Ta, Da, La vs. Natural Slurring)

Flexibilities MUST be taught before slurring



## TUBA

Get Low

- oh -ooh - squeeze the straw (milkshake)
- Blow water bubbles
- Loosen pressure on bottom lip

Get a Grip

- Never lift by small tubes
- Bear Hug!
- Use lap or tuba stand, not chair)
- Phone books for vertically challenged children
- Trouble holding causes Embouchure issues that block low range.



## PERCUSSION

Adjust instrument, not child

Stick angles Slightly downward pizza slice

Matched grip

Point of contact (juice bottle/coke can circle)

See no thumbnails (quarter on top of hand)

Fulcrum/back of stick (train through tunnel)

Stick height issues (flatten a stand on drum head)

Create schedule of who plays what, when



For More Information Visit [www.habitsuniversal.com](http://www.habitsuniversal.com)  
or email me directly at [jeff.scott7383@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.scott7383@gmail.com)