

The model student:

- Has a clear goal in mind and practices diligently to achieve this goal.
- Shows up to all lessons, rehearsals, and coachings early to warm up (never come to a lesson and say “I haven’t really had a chance to play yet today.”)
- Carries their solos, etudes, methods, excerpts, metronome, tuner, pencils, slide lubrication, and other materials with them to the practice room. Having a separate bag or briefcase dedicated to your music items is a good idea.
- Is prepared for each lesson.
 - Assignments are completed on time.
 - Etudes are performance ready, with breaths and alternate positions marked.
 - Solos are prepared. Occasionally one may not be able to play at the performance tempo. In this case, one should prepare this part of the solo at a slower tempo, but it a style conducive to the music.
 - Has all music, etudes, and excerpts being worked on.
- Prepares music for all ensembles in advance, regardless of the seeming difficulty level of the music.
- Records each lesson and listens back to make sure all information is assimilated.
- Gets top grades in all academic classes.
- Purchases music and recordings in a timely manner. All music being performed must be purchased by the student.
- Listens to professional recordings, rather than student recitals on YouTube.
- Develops long-term, short-term, and immediate goals.
 - What is the desired career as a musician?
 - What are the steps necessary along the way?
 - What can I do today to progress along this course?
- Becomes a member of the International Trombone Association and reads the quarterly journal.
- Discovers music through listening to recordings and live performance rather than asking “what solo should I play?”
- Looks for opportunities to collaborate with other musicians.
- Develops proficiency in as many areas as possible:
 - Solo
 - Orchestral
 - Brass Quintet
 - Jazz/Dance Bands
 - Trombone Quartet
 - Mixed Chamber
 - Funk/Hip-Hop/R&B
 - Polka
- Looks for opportunities to play for other musicians and gets feedback. He/she also provides useful (constructive) feedback for others.
- Uses technology in its many forms to better one’s playing (metronome, tuner, drones, recording, etc)