

Sr. High Oboe Students
Lesson 1 (30 Minute Session)

1 – Warm-up (5 minutes)

- Make sure you demonstrate good posture and take two or three deep, full breaths reminding yourself how you need to breathe to play a wind instrument effectively.
- Test the “crow” of your reed – using a loose embouchure, blow air through the reed.
 - With your lips at the junction of the cane and the thread, your reed should crow 2 octave Cs simultaneously. If you achieve only a single tone, it is possible that your embouchure is too tight, or your reed needs adjusting.
 - With your reed in playing position, your reed should “peep” a single C; use with minimal embouchure pressure.
- Long tones
 - Start quietly with low notes, moving to higher ones.
 - Play notes as long as possible to build stamina and control.
 - Add dynamics, listening for richness of tone and controlled pitch.
- Connectivity challenge
 - As you play a scale, keep your embouchure open and relaxed, connecting the notes so they blend into one another. Very important as you ascend: **compress the air – don’t apply pressure with your lips.**

2 - Technique (10 minutes)

Bb Major Scale, Arpeggio and Thirds

Bb Major

The image contains two staves of musical notation in Bb Major, 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Scale' and 'Arpeggio'. It shows an ascending and descending scale of eighth notes, followed by a whole note arpeggio (Bb, D, F, Ab). The second staff is labeled 'Thirds' and shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs representing thirds: Bb-D, D-F, F-Ab, Ab-C, C-Eb, Eb-G, G-Bb, Bb-D, D-F, F-Ab, Ab-C, C-Eb, Eb-G, G-Bb, Bb-D.

Eb Major Scale, Arpeggio and Thirds

The image shows three musical staves in 4/4 time, Eb Major key. The first staff is labeled 'Scale' and shows the Eb major scale ascending and descending. The second staff is labeled 'Arpeggio' and shows the Eb major triad (Eb, Gb, Bb) ascending and descending. The third staff is labeled 'Thirds' and shows the Eb major scale with intervals of a third between notes, ascending and descending.

Chromatic Scale

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Chromatic' and shows a chromatic scale ascending from C4 to C5. The second staff shows a chromatic scale descending from C5 to C4.

- When you practice your scales be sure to vary the articulations: all slurred, all tongued, slur two & tongue two, tongue two & slur two, slur three and tongue one, etc.

For enrichment: To advance your technique even more, play your scales in full range. i.e.: For major scales, start on your lowest note (not necessarily the root or first note of the scale) and play to your highest note using the same key signature.

Always work with a metronome aiming for accuracy first and then increase the tempo. Accuracy is more important than speed.

3 – Work on your repertoire (15 minutes)

Choose to practice what needs to be mastered; don't waste your time practicing what you can already do.

- Listen to the piece you're working on. Most band pieces are available to listen to on jwpepper.com.
- Listen and play along – don't worry about mistakes.
- Isolate the more difficult passages and work on these in small "chunks."

- Without playing, figure out the **rhythms** first. Write in the counting if you need to and if need be, S L O W it way down. Accuracy is more important than speed.
- Look at the notes and add the fingerings to the rhythms you've just learned.
- Take note of the key signature and any accidentals; play these small "chunks" sections on your instrument. Accuracy is more important than speed.
- Put the "chunks" together, gradually increasing tempo if necessary. Accuracy is more important than speed.
- **Practice with a metronome is always encouraged.**

4 - Listening (5 minutes)

- On YouTube, find examples of great players to listen to and *really listen* for the following: breathing, tone quality, articulations, musical phrasing, dynamics, etc. Great players to check out: John Mack, Albrecht Mayer, Alex Klein, Heinz Holliger.