

Developing the Young Band Sound 2024



Rachel J. Maxwell

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles (teal, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink) and dashed lines of the same colors, arranged in a circular pattern around the text.

Traughber JHS 8th Gr Band

Piece #1



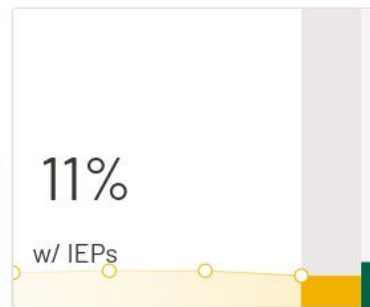
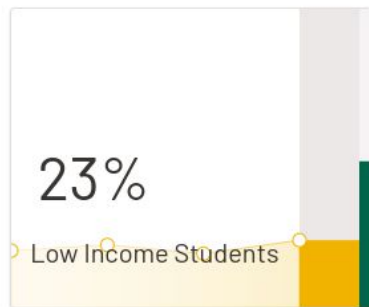
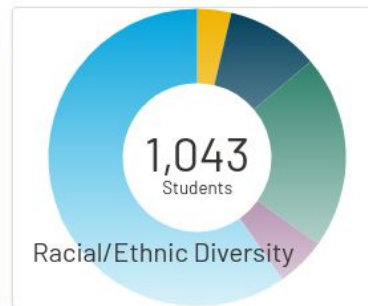
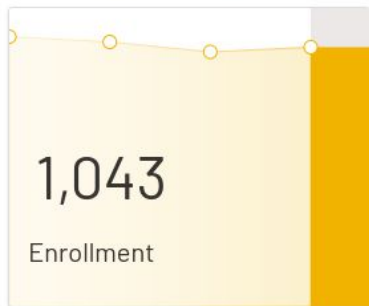
TRAUGHBER JR HIGH SCHOOL

Together, we empower, support, and motivate all students to thrive along their unique educational journey.

(I **LOVE** quoting the district taglines when I get push back on some of my crazy, grand plans.)

TRAUGHBER JR HIGH SCHOOL

■ School ■ District ■ State





Demographics	School
White	59.6% / 622
Black	10.1% / 105
Hispanic	21% / 219
Asian	3.7% / 39
Am. Indian	0%
Pacific Islander	Redacted
Two or More	5.4% / 56



TRAUGHBER JR HIGH SCHOOL (6 - 8)

CUSD 308

[Compare Schools](#)

[Custom Report Card Builder](#)

Accountability

■ School ■ District ■ State

Summative Designation Commendable School

A school that has **no underperforming student groups**, a graduation rate greater than 67%, and whose performance is **not in the top 10%** of schools statewide.

8

College and Career Ready
Indicators

2

Fine Arts Indicators

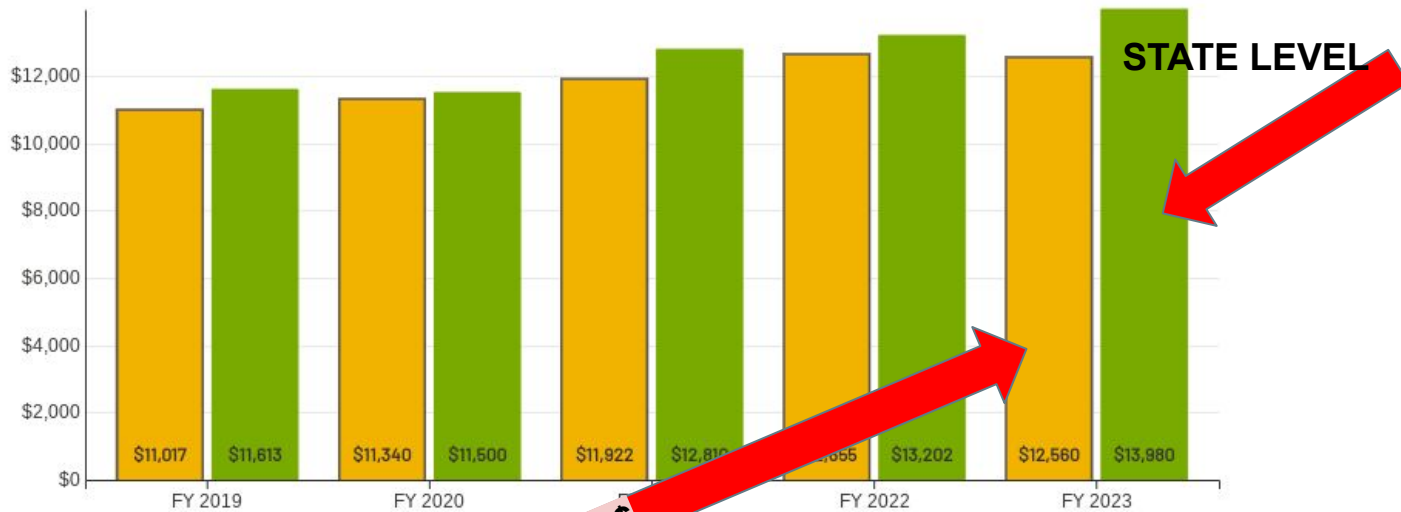
Summative Designation Meta
Indicator Components

Eligible, but Not a
Participant in Title
One Program

Title I Status

SELECT: ☒ Overall ☐ Source of Funds ☐ Expenditure Type

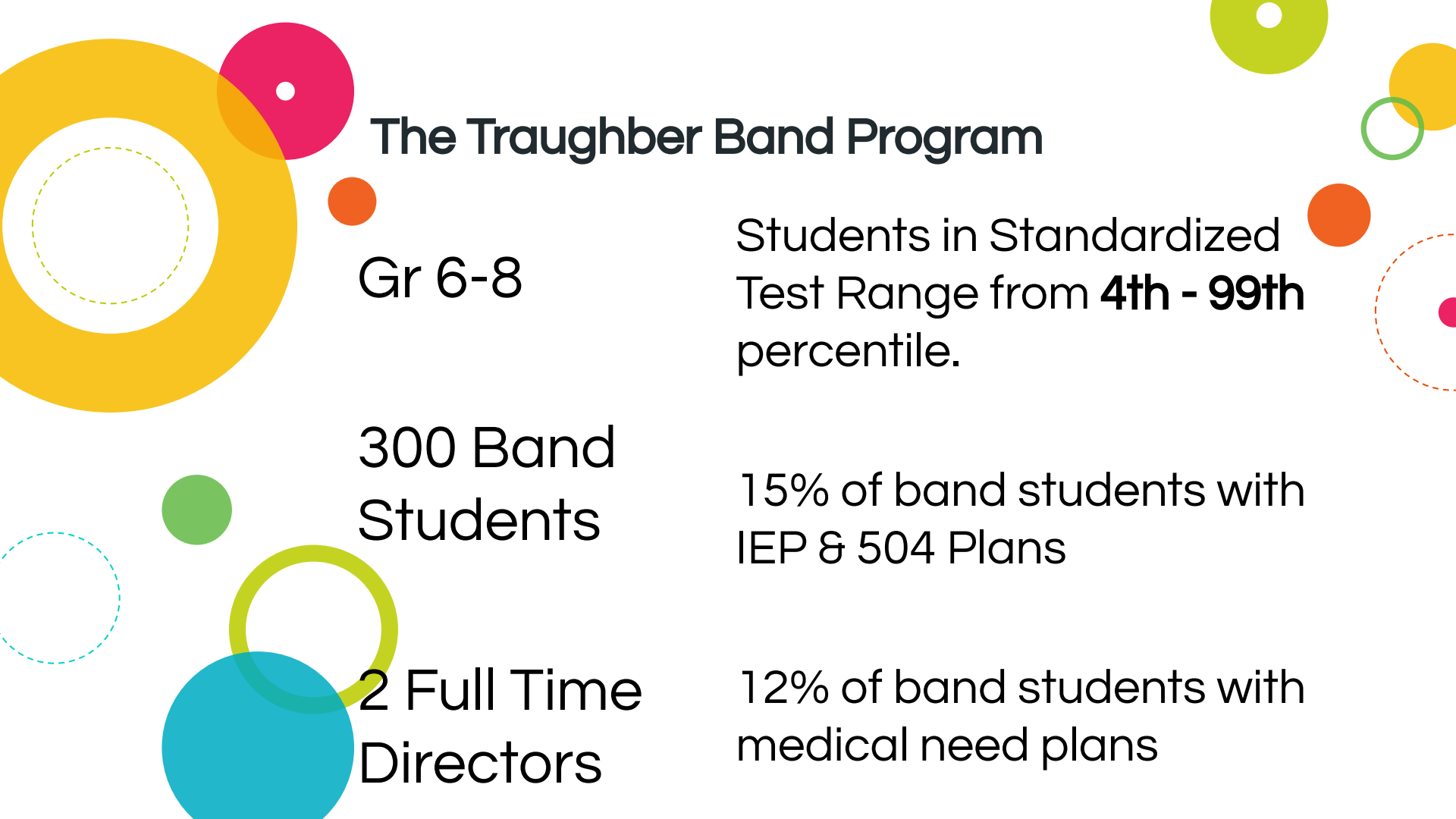
☐ Show Trendlines



District Per Pupil \$\$

STATE LEVEL



The background of the slide is decorated with several overlapping circles and rings in various colors including yellow, pink, orange, green, blue, and light blue. Some circles have dashed outlines, and some are solid. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a clear hierarchy.

The Traugber Band Program

Gr 6-8

Students in Standardized
Test Range from **4th - 99th**
percentile.

300 Band
Students

15% of band students with
IEP & 504 Plans

2 Full Time
Directors

12% of band students with
medical need plans



The Traugber Band Program

We welcome students from

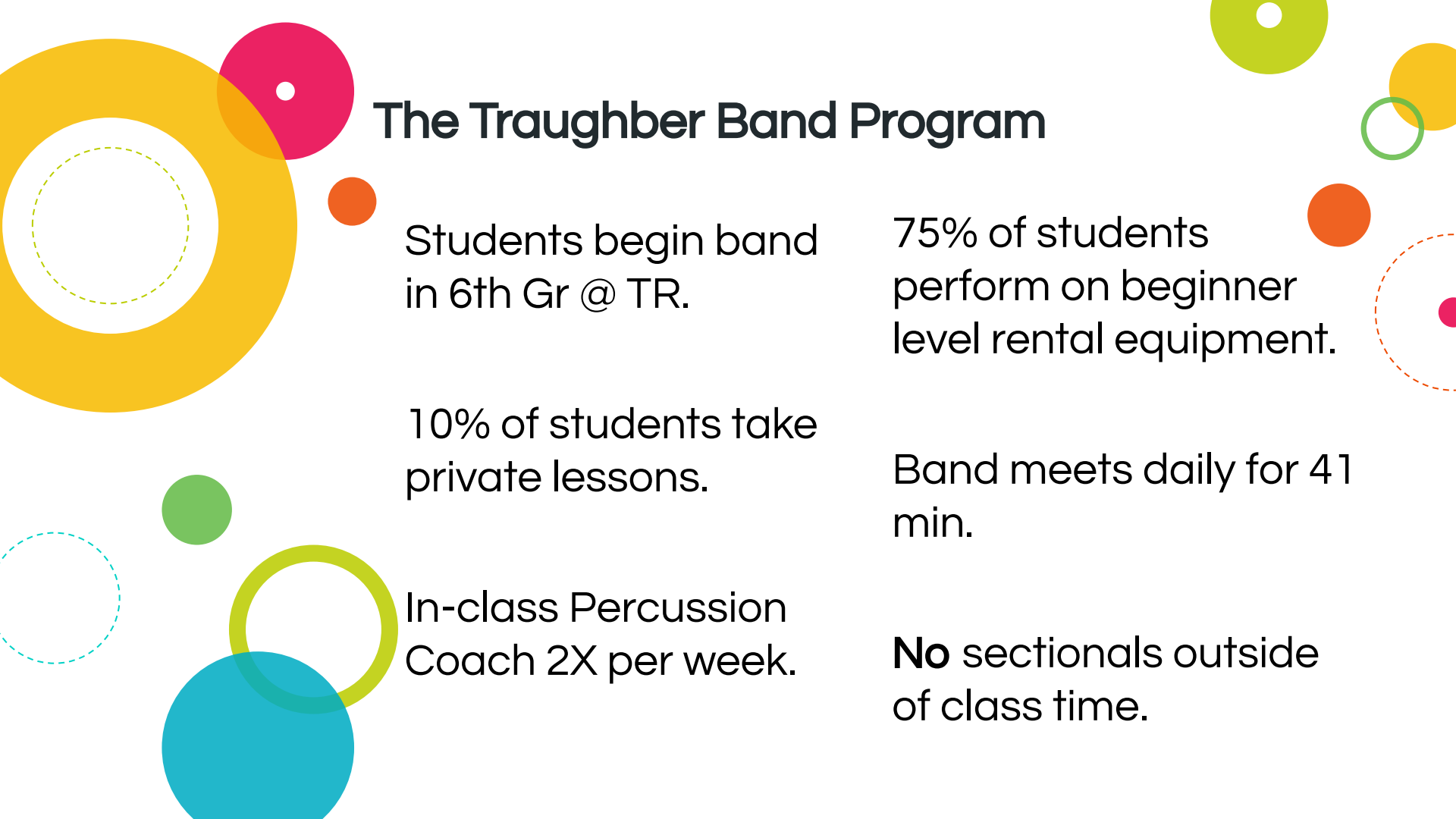
- Honors
 - Gifted & Talented
 - Regular Education
 - Special Education
 - Homeschool Programs
- 



The Traugher Band Program

We welcome students from

- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- ESL
- Functional Behavior Integration
- Emotional Disability
- Assistive Technology Programs



The Traugber Band Program

Students begin band
in 6th Gr @ TR.

10% of students take
private lessons.

In-class Percussion
Coach 2X per week.

75% of students
perform on beginner
level rental equipment.

Band meets daily for 41
min.

No sectionals outside
of class time.



Before School (60 min) -Full Band as Needed

1st-Prep (all periods 41 min)

2nd-8th Grade Brass

3rd-8th Grade Woodwinds & Percussion

4th-7th Grade Woodwinds & Percussion

5th-7th Grade Brass

6th-Lunch, Retests, Individ. Help

7th-Beginner Brass

8th-Beginner Flute & Saxophones

9th-Beg Clarinets & Percussion

After School M/TH: Jazz Band





The Traughber band
program is also...

Enthusiastic Kids



NOT Enthusiastic Kids



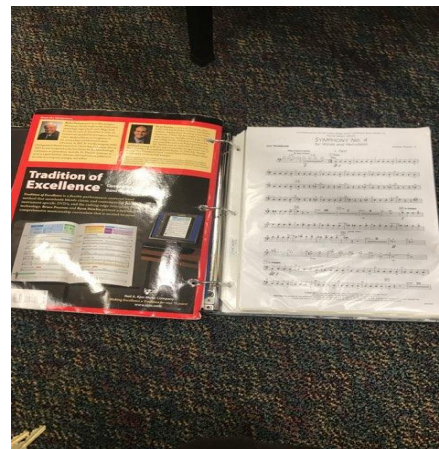
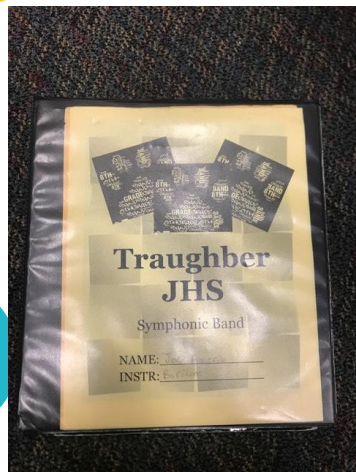
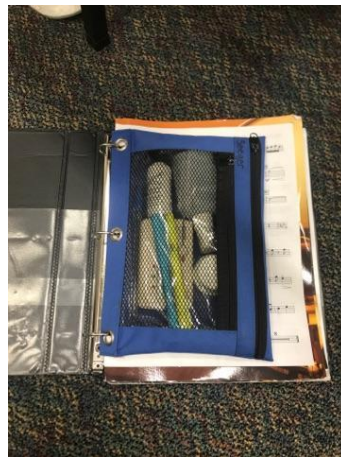
Attentive Kids



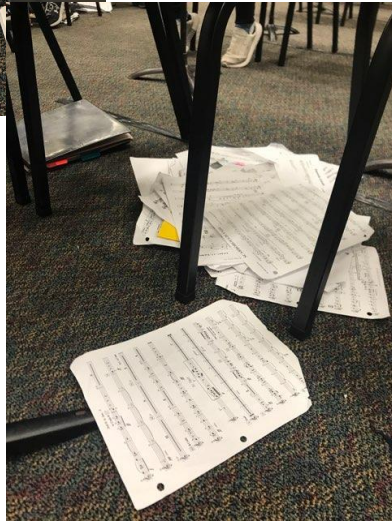
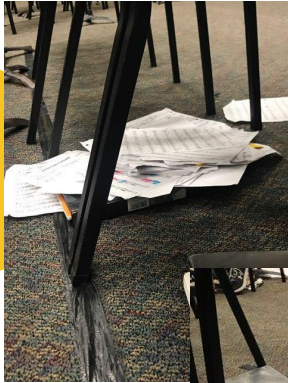
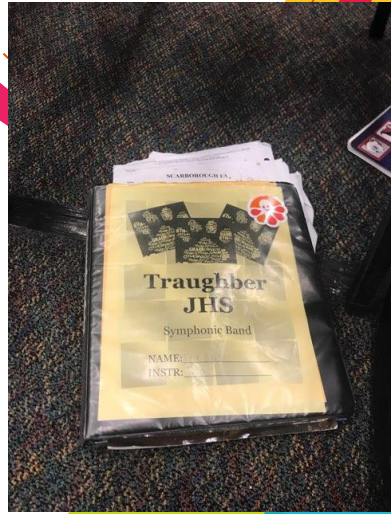
Spaced Out Kids



Organized Kids



Disorganized Kids



**These are
REAL!**



Brass Kids w/ Braces

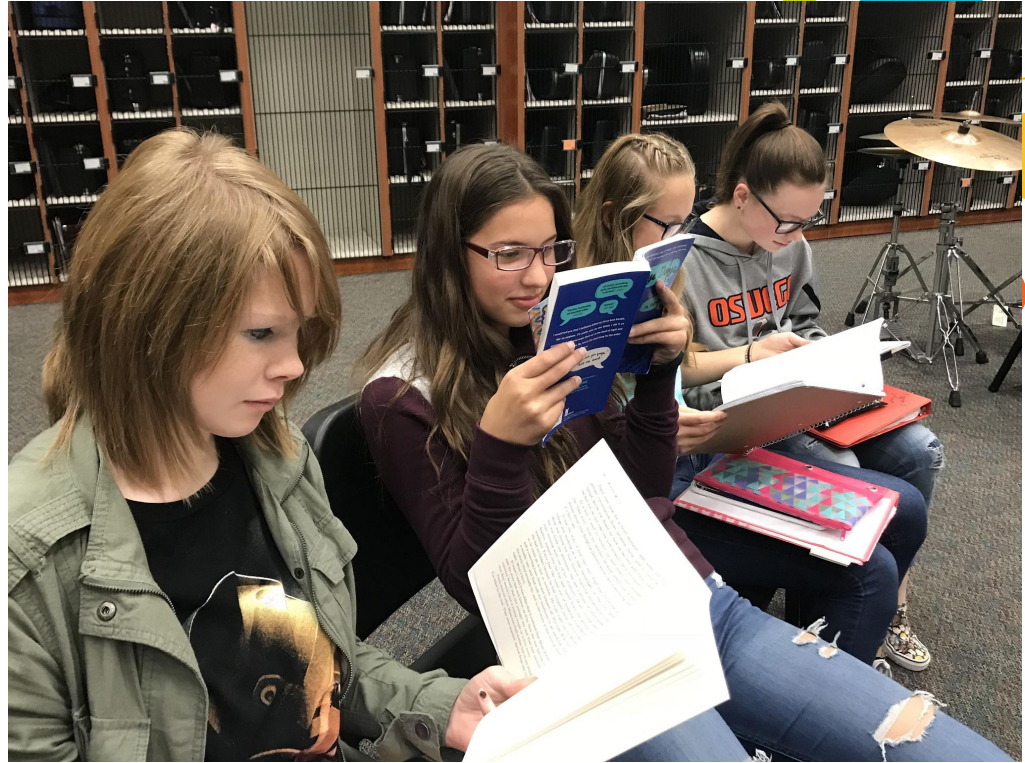
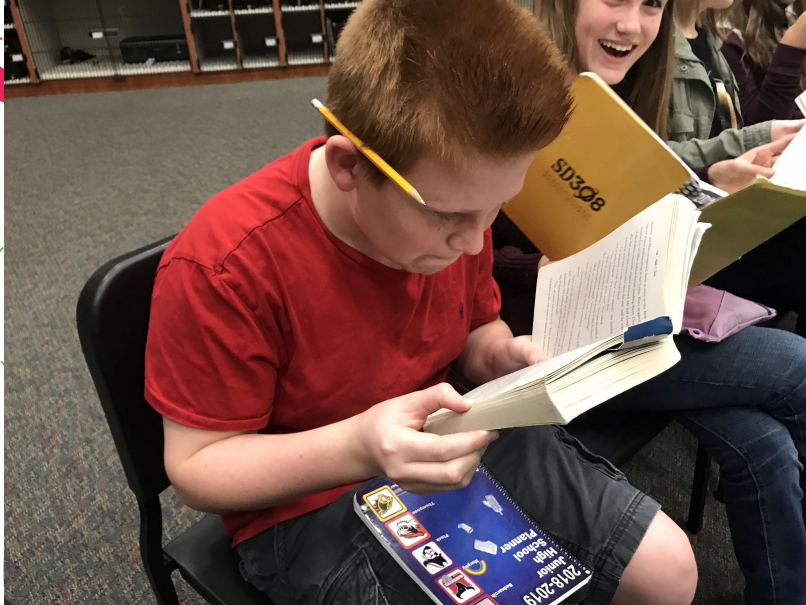


The struggle is real...

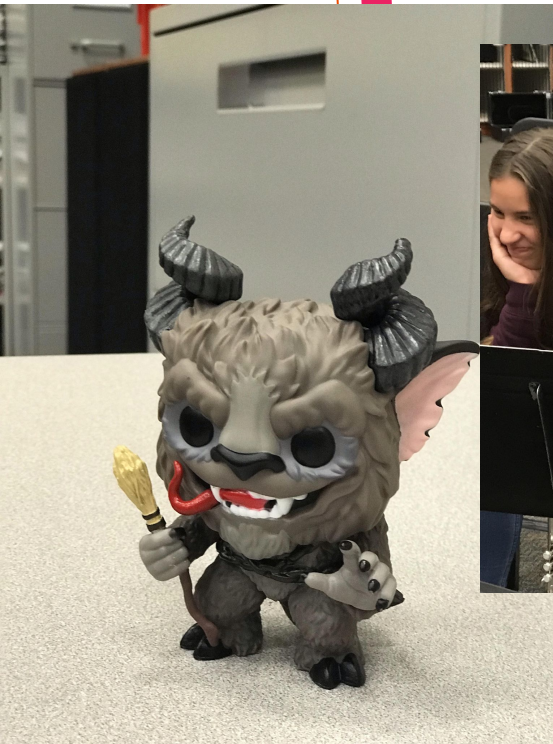
Athletes



Book Worms



Frenemies

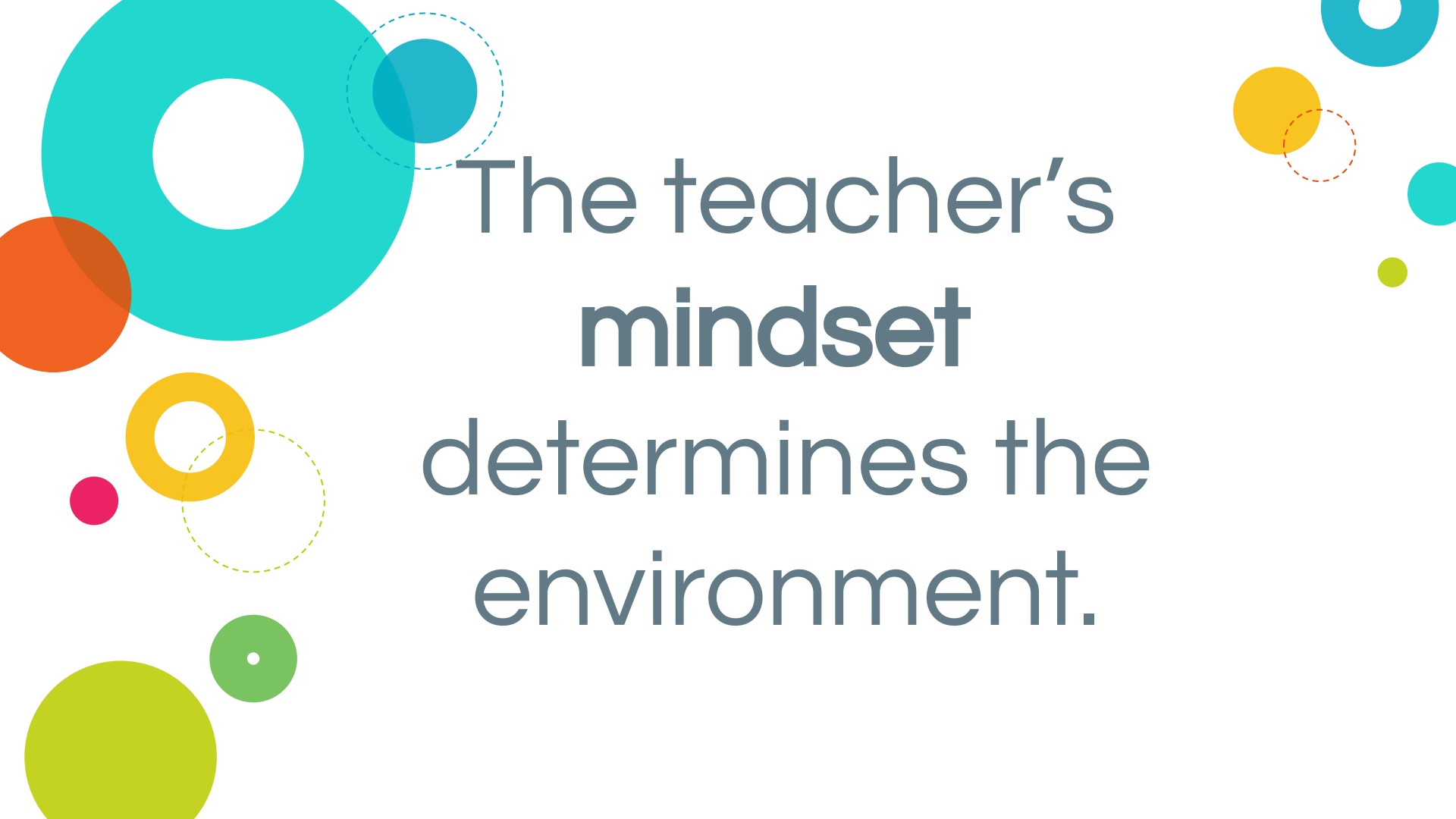


Friends

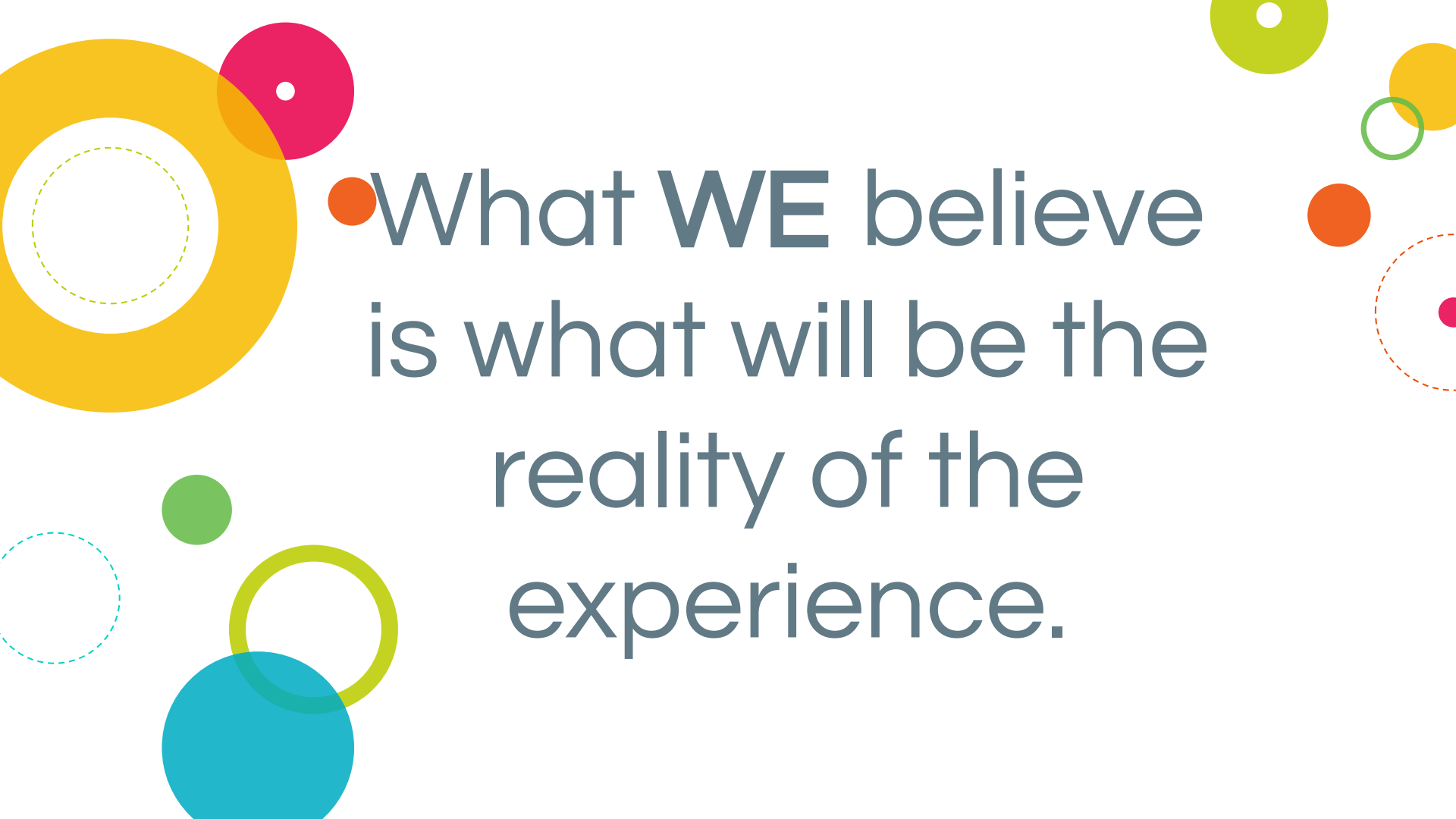


The background is white and decorated with various colorful geometric shapes. In the top left, there is a large teal circle with a white center, a smaller solid teal circle, and a dashed teal circle. In the top right, there is a large lime green circle, a smaller solid green circle, and a dashed green circle. In the bottom left, there is a large green circle with a white center, a smaller solid yellow circle, and a dashed yellow circle. In the bottom right, there is a large yellow circle, a smaller solid orange circle, and a dashed orange circle. A thin black rectangular box is centered horizontally, containing the text "Set-Up & Planning" in a teal serif font. A dashed blue line curves from the top left towards the bottom right, passing behind the central box.

Set-Up & Planning

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles and rings. On the left, there is a large teal ring, an orange solid circle, a yellow ring, a small pink solid circle, a large lime green solid circle, and a small green solid circle with a white dot. On the right, there is a yellow solid circle, a teal solid circle, a small lime green solid circle, and a teal solid circle. Dashed circles in blue, yellow, and orange are also present, some overlapping the solid shapes.

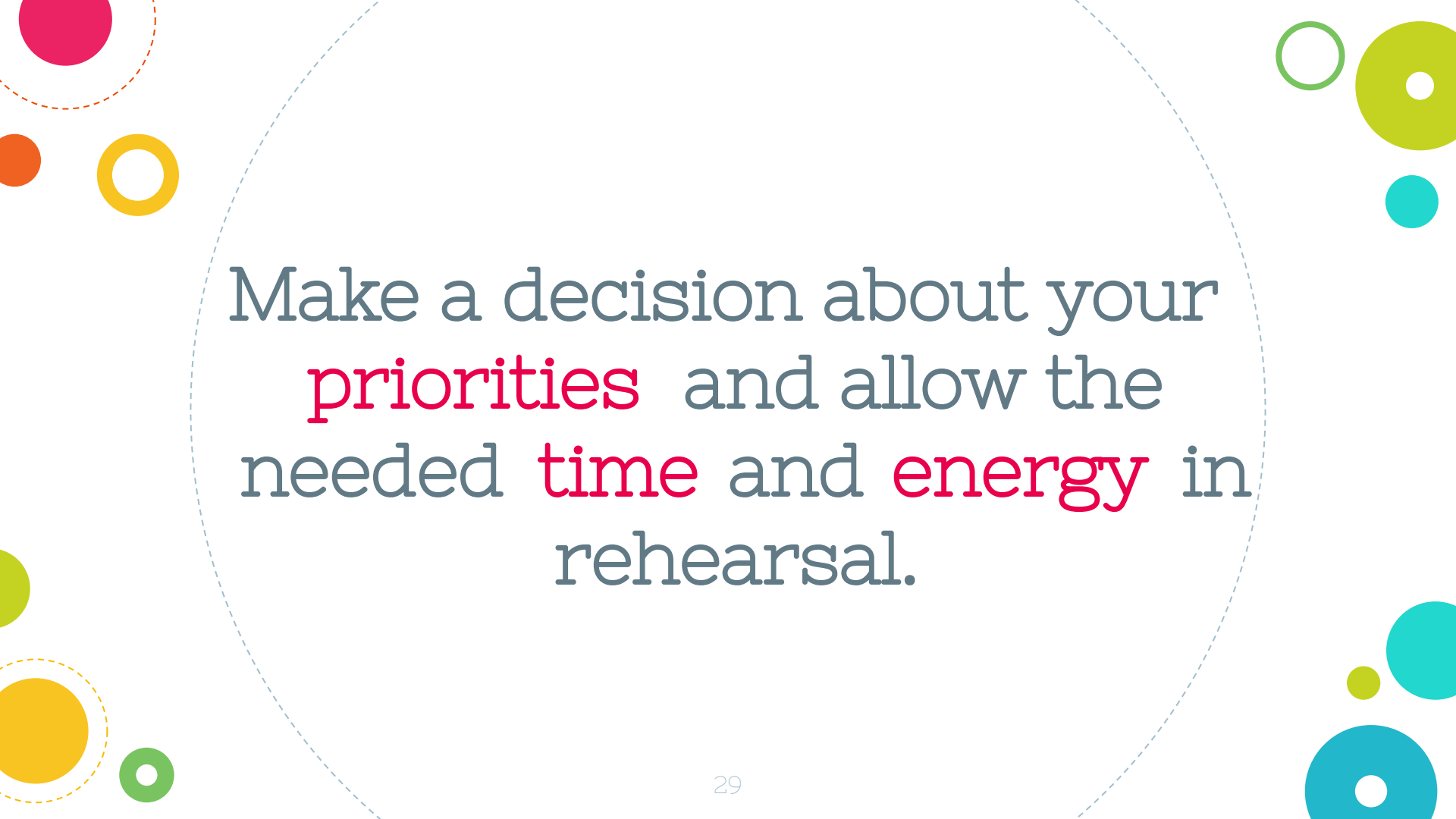
The teacher's
mindset
determines the
environment.

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles and rings. On the left, a large yellow ring with a white center and a dashed green border is prominent. Above it is a pink circle with a white center. To the right, there's a green circle with a white center, an orange circle, and a yellow circle. Below the yellow ring, there's a green circle, a blue circle, and a yellow ring. On the far right, there's a green circle with a white center, an orange circle, a yellow circle, and a pink circle with a dashed orange border.

• What **WE** believe
is what will be the
reality of the
experience.

A decorative graphic consisting of various colored circles and rings. In the top left, there are overlapping pink, orange, and blue circles, with a dashed pink circle around the pink one. Below these is a large blue ring. In the top right, there are green, blue, and yellow circles, with a dashed yellow circle around a yellow one. In the bottom left, there is a large green ring and a green circle. In the bottom right, there is a small yellow circle and a green circle. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

Determine your **standard**
and vision for your ideal
sound.

A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle in the center. The background is white, adorned with various colorful circles in the corners: pink, orange, yellow, green, and teal. Some circles are solid, while others are dashed or have a white center.

Make a decision about your
priorities and allow the
needed **time** and **energy** in
rehearsal.

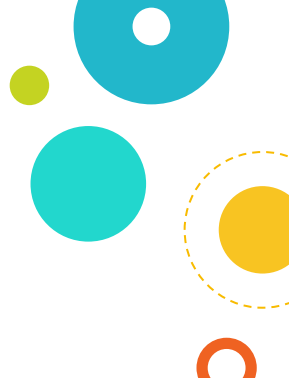
A decorative background featuring a large, light blue dashed circle. Various colored circles and arcs are scattered around it: a large lime green circle at the top left, a large cyan arc at the top center, a large yellow circle at the top right, a large orange circle at the bottom left, and a large orange arc at the bottom right. Smaller circles in green, blue, orange, and pink are also present.

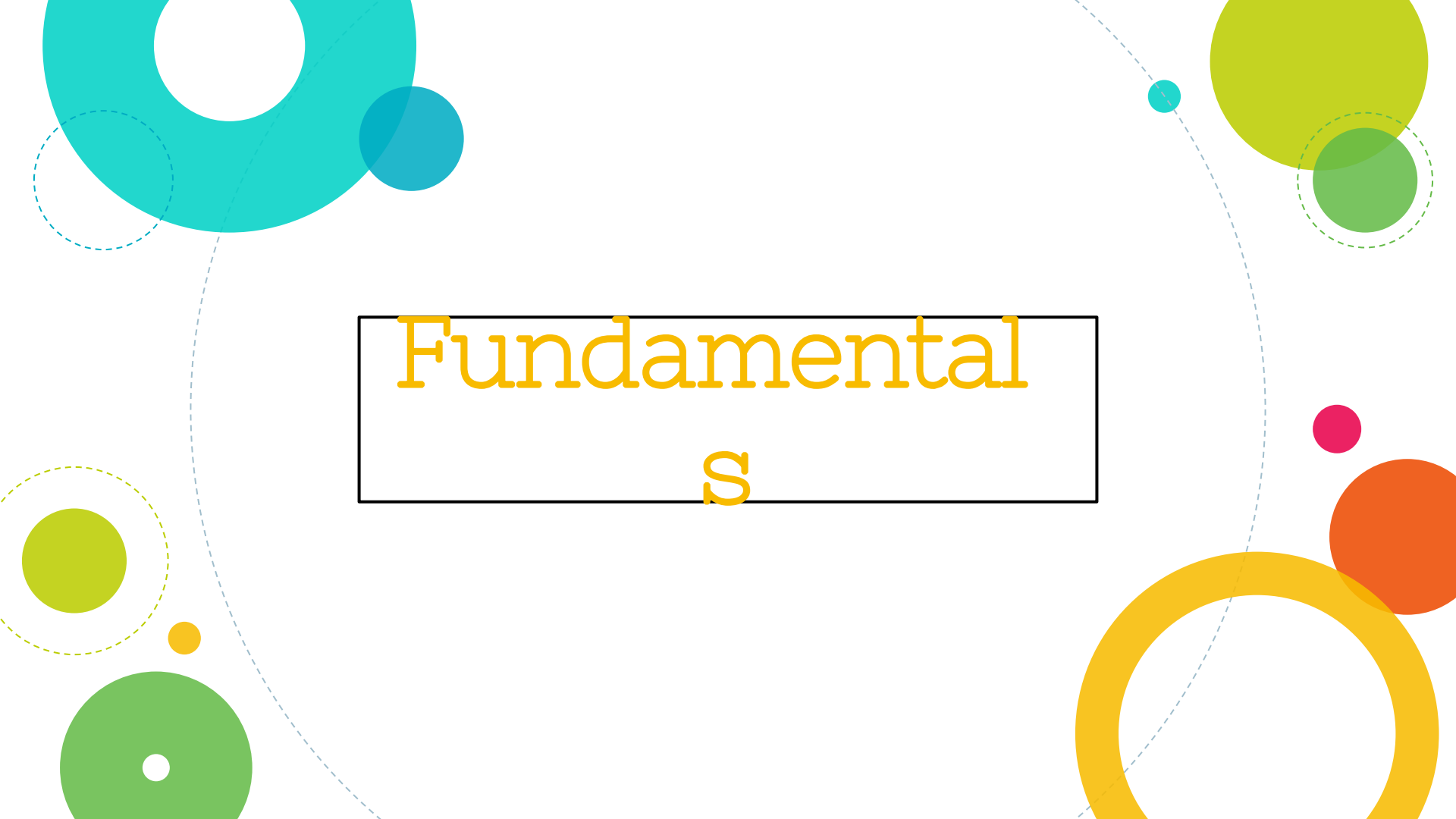
“

Realistically measure your
own **grit** and **persistence** .

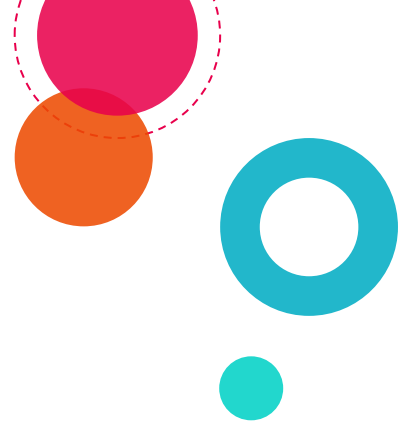


Physical Setting

- ◎ Quality chairs.
 - ◎ Music stands RAISED!
 - ◎ Enough **space** between students.
 - ◎ **Thoughtful** seating charts (experiment).
- 

The background is white and features several decorative elements: a large teal ring in the top-left, a smaller teal circle next to it, a large lime green circle in the top-right, a smaller green circle with a dashed outline next to it, a large orange ring in the bottom-right, a smaller orange circle next to it, a large green circle in the bottom-left, a smaller lime green circle with a dashed outline next to it, and a small pink circle. A large, faint dashed blue circle is centered on the page, passing through the rings. The text 'Fundamentals' is centered in a black rectangular box.

Fundamentals



POSTURE



The position in which the body can most **easily** bring air in and send it out.

Students should sit in a position that allows the them to stand with no effort.

The student should feel **no physical restrictions.**





POSTURE

- Feet Flat
- Knees Bent
- Shoulders Soft
 - Chin Level
- Belly Button **Forward**
 - Armpits open

BREATHING

Air in and out should leave the student's body
tension-free .

Breathing exercises will also help the students
relax and improve **focus** .

BREATHING

- Breathe through the mouth only.
 - Keep the body “soft” with good posture.
 - There should be no shoulder movement.

More BREATHING Ideas

- Breathe silently
- Do not hold air in!
- Air comes in and goes out smoothly.
- The students should think “cold air in” and “warm air out.”
 - Aim the air at a chosen target.

FH

5
MINS

GUIDED
BOX
BREATHING

4
COUNTS

AUDIO CUES 

The background features a large, light blue dashed circle. Various colored circles and arcs are scattered around it: a large yellow circle at the top left, a small green circle with a white dot, a small blue circle, a large orange circle at the top right, a medium blue circle containing the text "“", a large yellow circle at the bottom left, a small pink circle, a large orange circle at the bottom right, a small green circle with a white dot, and a small blue circle. A large orange arc is also visible on the right side.

“

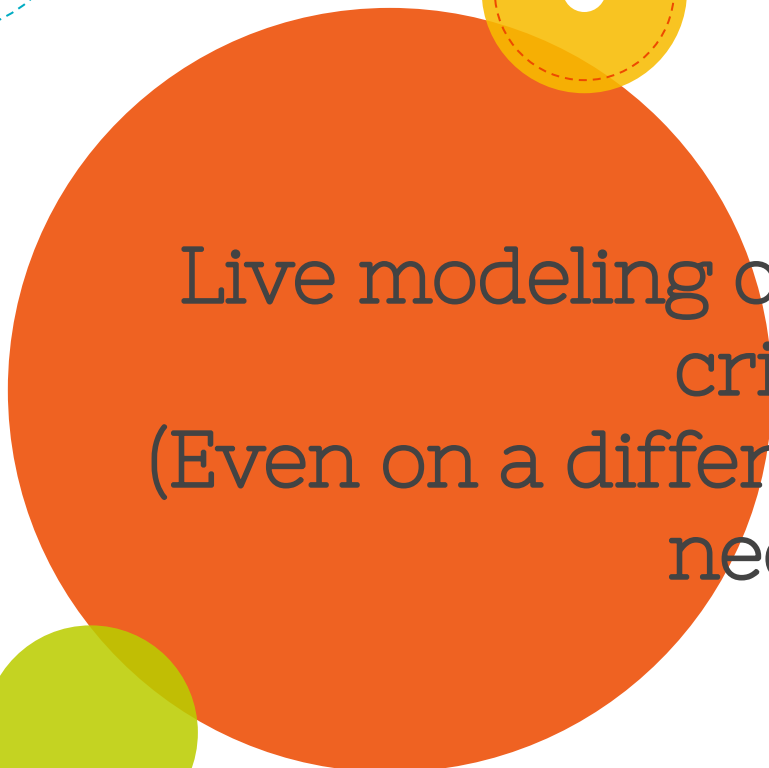
Playing Position is
critical!
Head-Arms-Hands

The background features a light gray dashed line that curves from the top left towards the bottom right. Various colored circles are scattered around: a large cyan circle with a white center in the top left, a smaller blue circle next to it, a lime green circle in the top right, a green circle with a dashed outline next to it, a pink circle in the middle right, an orange circle in the bottom right, a yellow circle with a white center in the bottom right, a green circle with a white center in the bottom left, and a lime green circle in the middle left. A small orange circle is also near the bottom left.

Characteristic Tone

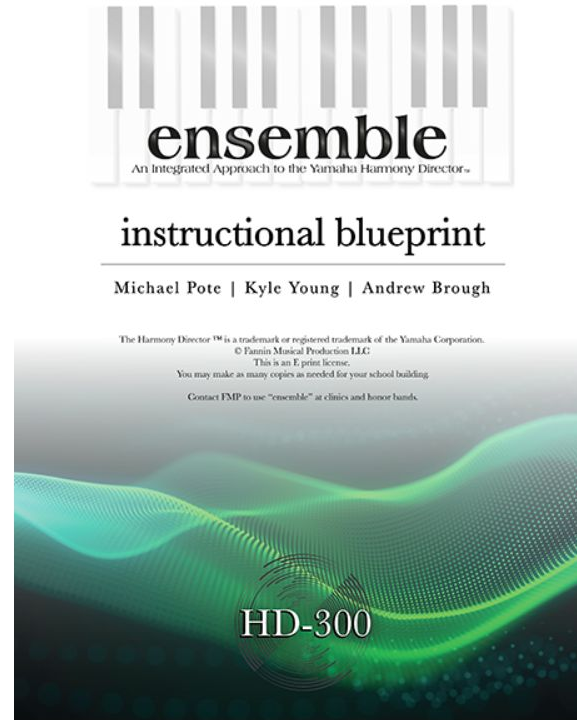


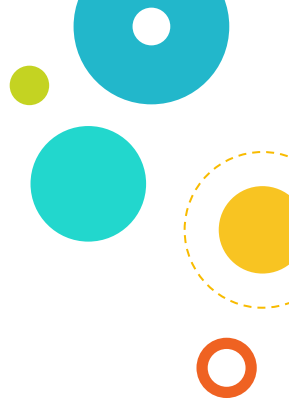
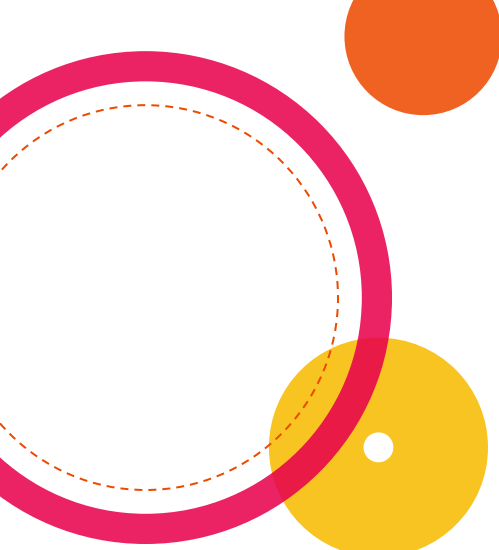
MODEL



Live modeling or recordings are
critical!
(Even on a different instrument if
needed)

Harmony Director



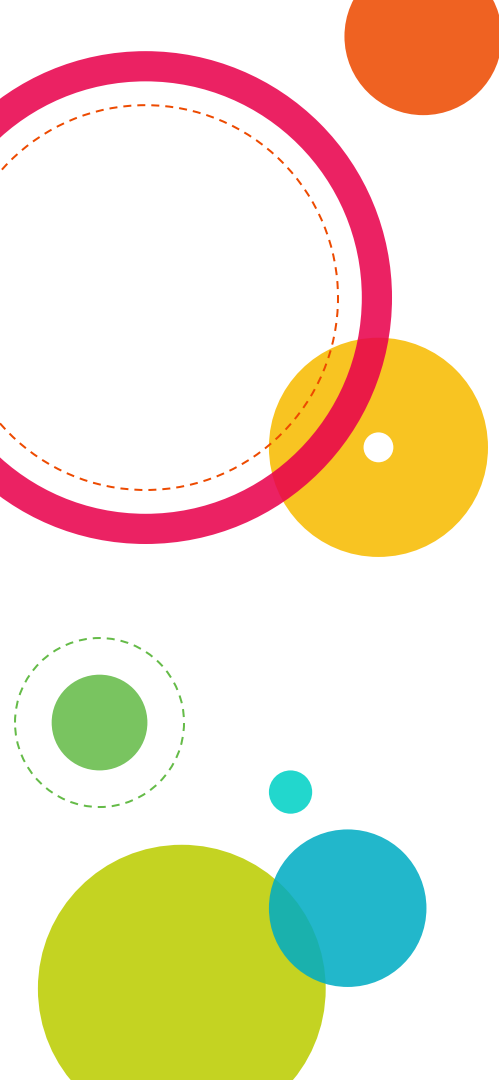


McAllister Warm-Ups

Complete warm ups sets that include metronome and drone accompaniment on YouTube.

First days of beginning band through advanced band.

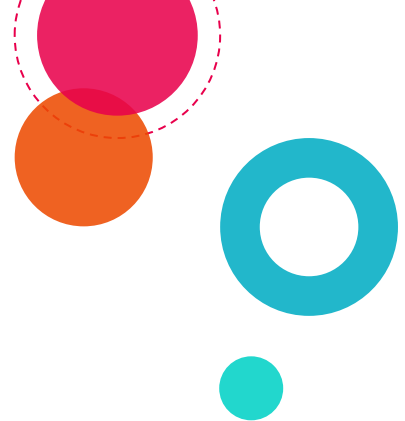
johnmcallistermusic.com



EMBOUCHURE

Constantly check for
inconsistencies and
abnormalities!

Trust No One!

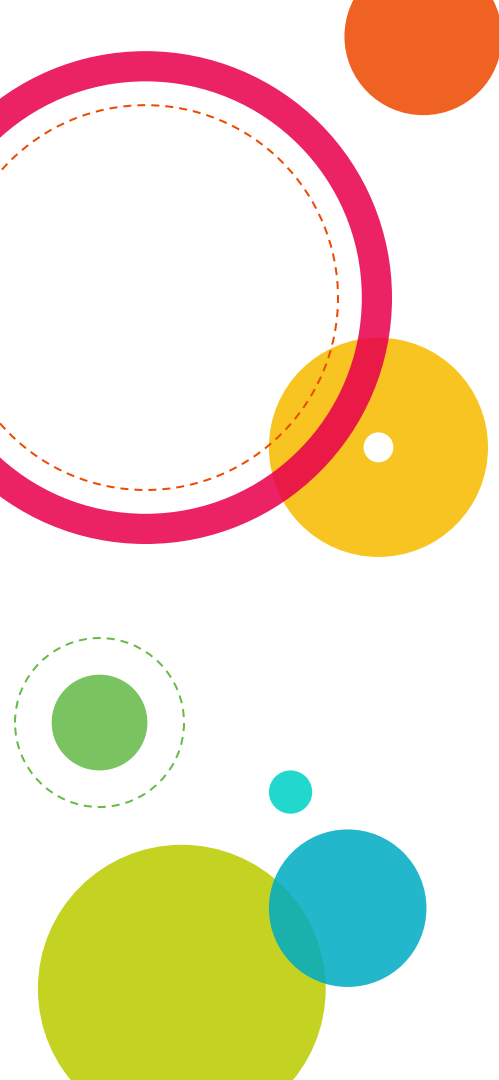


WW EMBOUCHURE

Efficient and “clean” looking

Use mirrors along with photo or video
examples

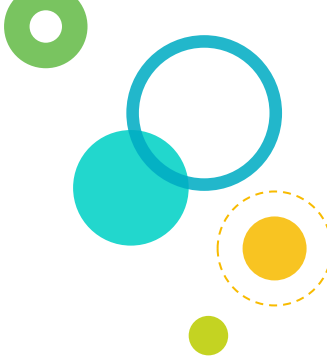
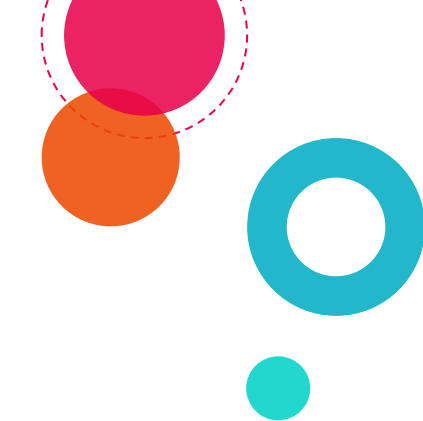




BRASS EMBOUCHURE

Both lips must actively buzz
outward

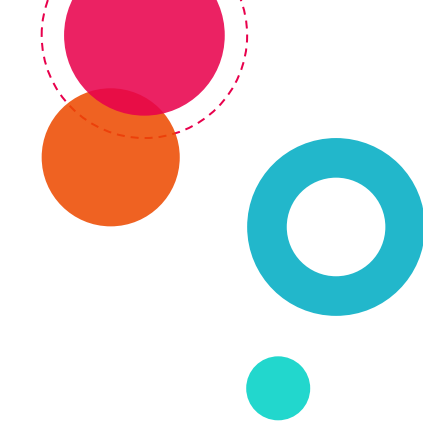
Teeth apart



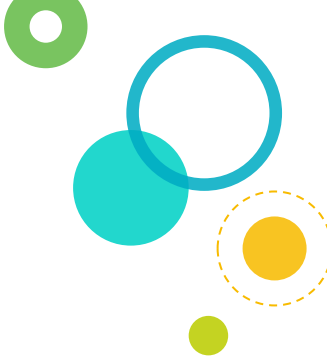
EMBOUCHURE

The face, jaw, throat and other features must remain still when articulating.





EMBOUCHURE



The corners of the mouth be still as the tongue is moving.

Keep embouchure set two beats before playing and one beat after a release.





BUZZING

Brass Buzzing while woodwinds begin long tones.

LIP SLURS

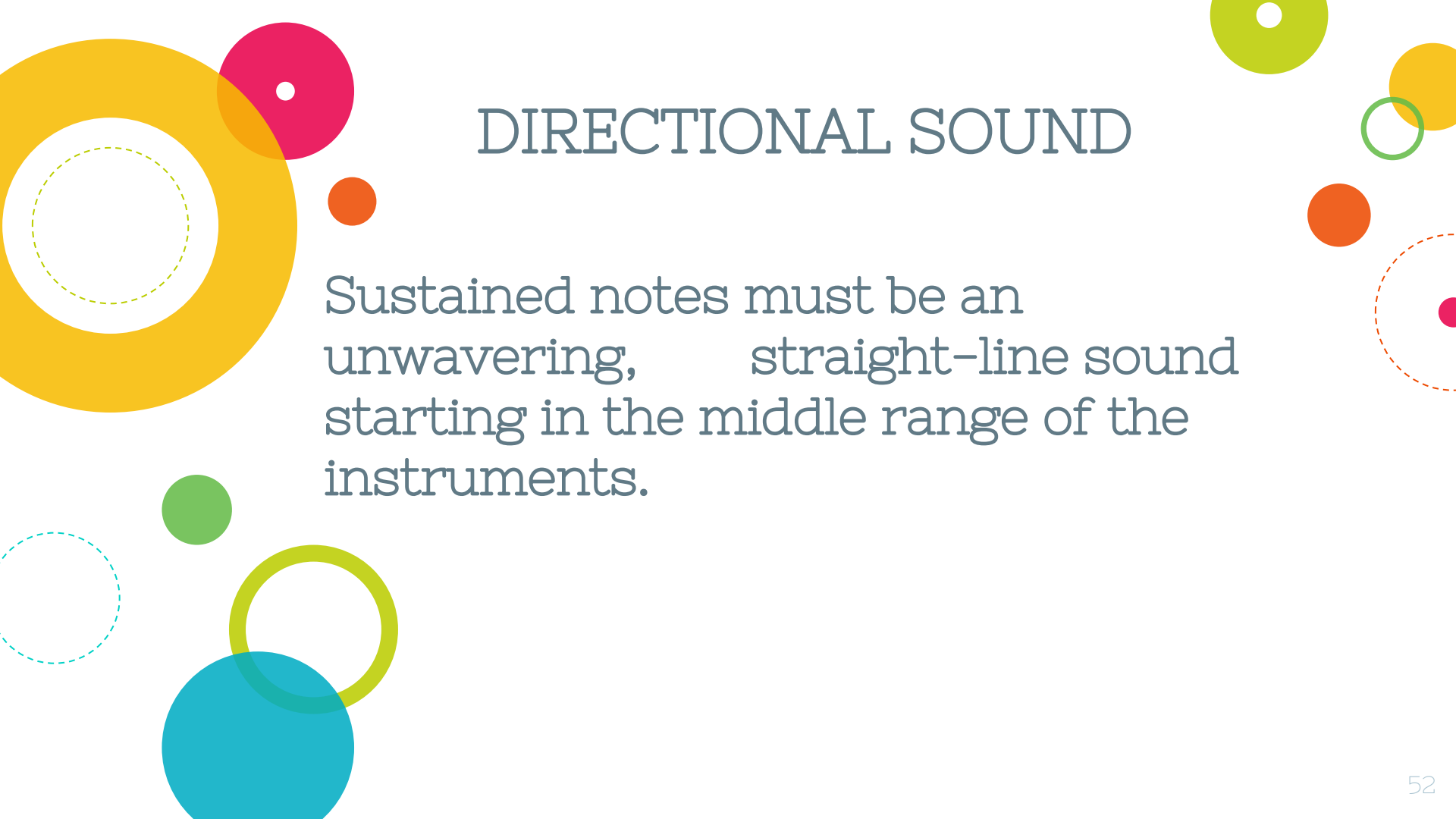
Lip slurs are beneficial to both brass and woodwind students.

Flexibility and seamless connection is the goal.

LIP SLURS

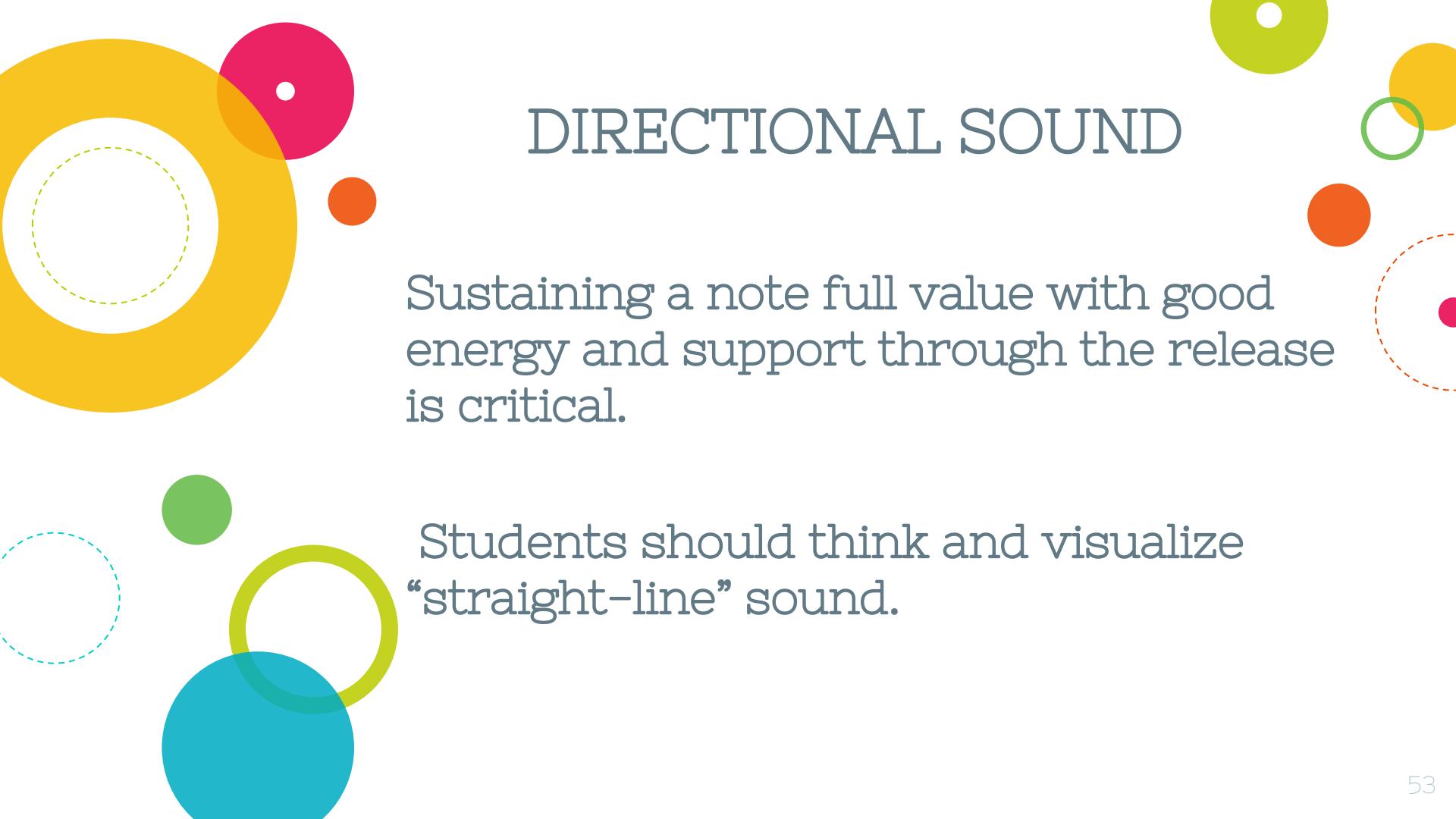
Develop the consistent, unwavering, straight-line sound through this interval exercise.

The tempo should be varied from slow to a faster tempo only when quality and accuracy can be maintained.

A decorative graphic featuring several overlapping circles and rings in various colors including yellow, pink, orange, green, blue, and red. Some circles have dashed outlines, and one has a small white dot in the center. The shapes are scattered across the slide, with a large yellow circle on the left and smaller ones on the right and bottom.

DIRECTIONAL SOUND

Sustained notes must be an unwavering, straight-line sound starting in the middle range of the instruments.



DIRECTIONAL SOUND

Sustaining a note full value with good energy and support through the release is critical.

Students should think and visualize “straight-line” sound.

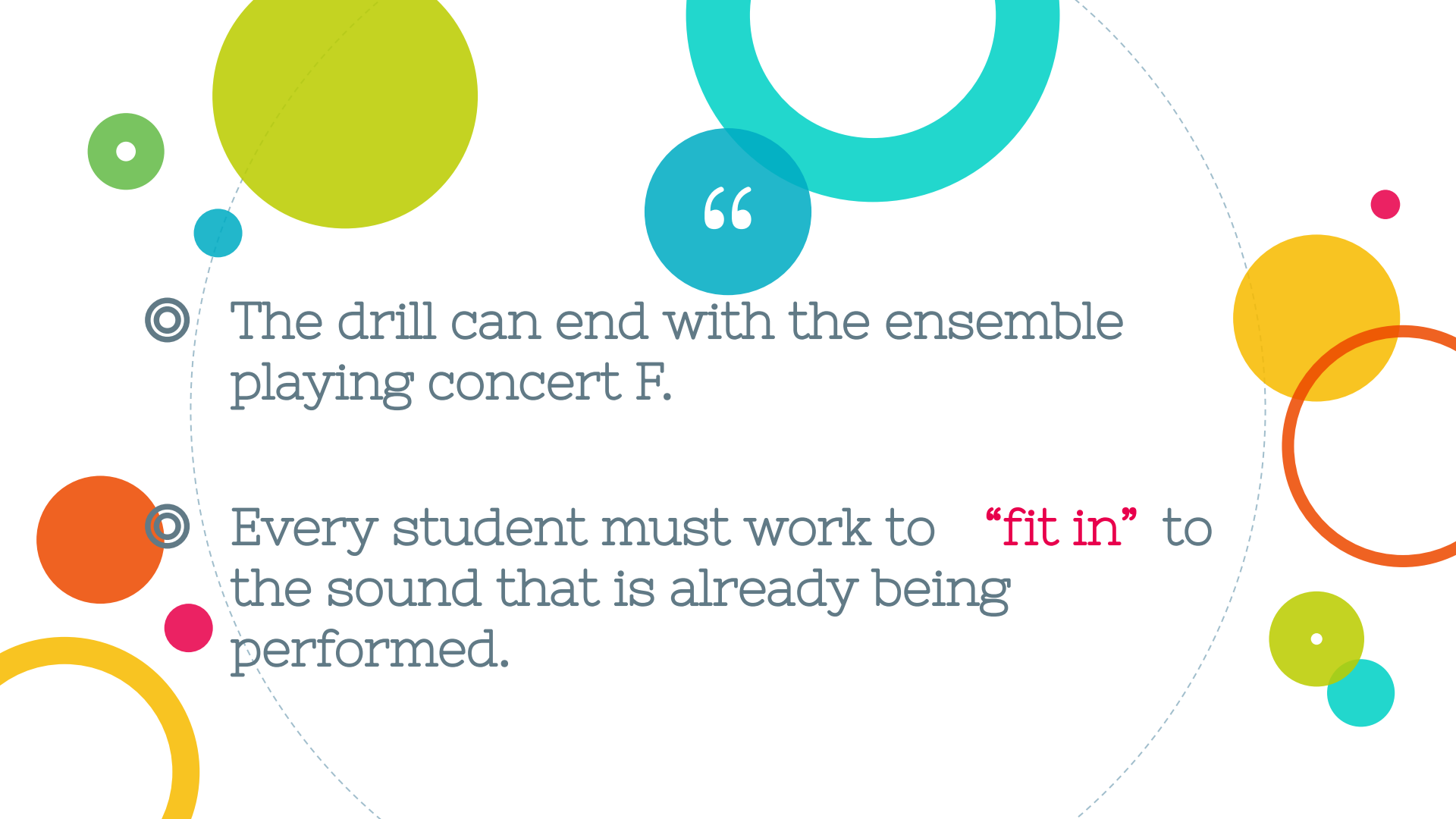
A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. Various colorful circles and arcs are scattered around the perimeter: a large lime green circle at the top left, a small green circle with a white dot, a small blue circle, a large orange circle, a small pink circle, and a yellow arc at the bottom left; a large cyan arc at the top right; a blue circle containing white quotation marks; a large yellow circle, a large orange arc, a small pink circle, a lime green circle with a white dot, and a small cyan circle at the bottom right.

“

CONCERT F RELAY (F Around the Room)

Start in one of these ways:

1. At the bottom (tuba to flute followed by a percussion roll or scale).
2. With a section that demonstrates the style best and then goes back to the bottom of the harmonic series.
3. The top down to the lowest.

A decorative background featuring various colored circles (green, yellow, orange, red, blue) and a large dashed line forming a circle. A blue circle with white quotation marks is positioned above the first bullet point.

“

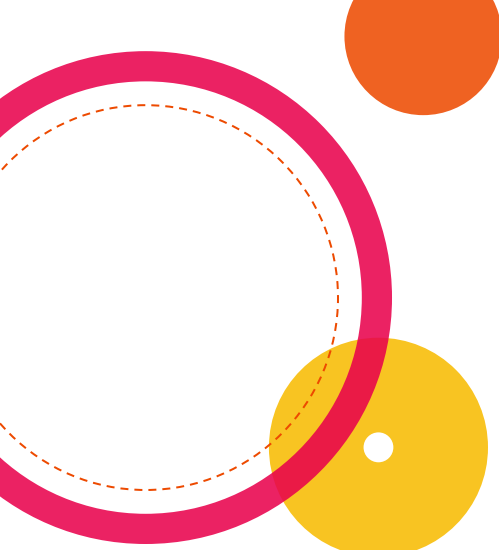
© The drill can end with the ensemble playing concert F.

© Every student must work to “fit in” to the sound that is already being performed.

A decorative background featuring a large, light blue dashed circle. Various colored circles and arcs are scattered around it: a large yellow circle at the top left, a large teal arc at the top center, a large orange circle at the bottom left, a large yellow circle at the bottom right, and several smaller circles in green, blue, orange, and pink. A blue circle containing the text "“" is positioned near the top center.

“

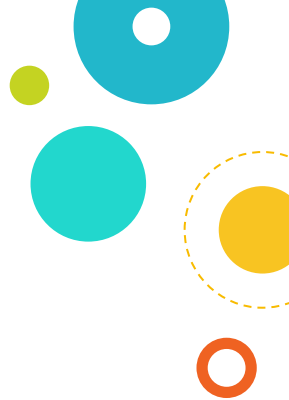
- ◎ Match “intensity” of previous group.
- ◎ Every section or individual needs to feel that the air at the end of their note fuels the start of the next note.

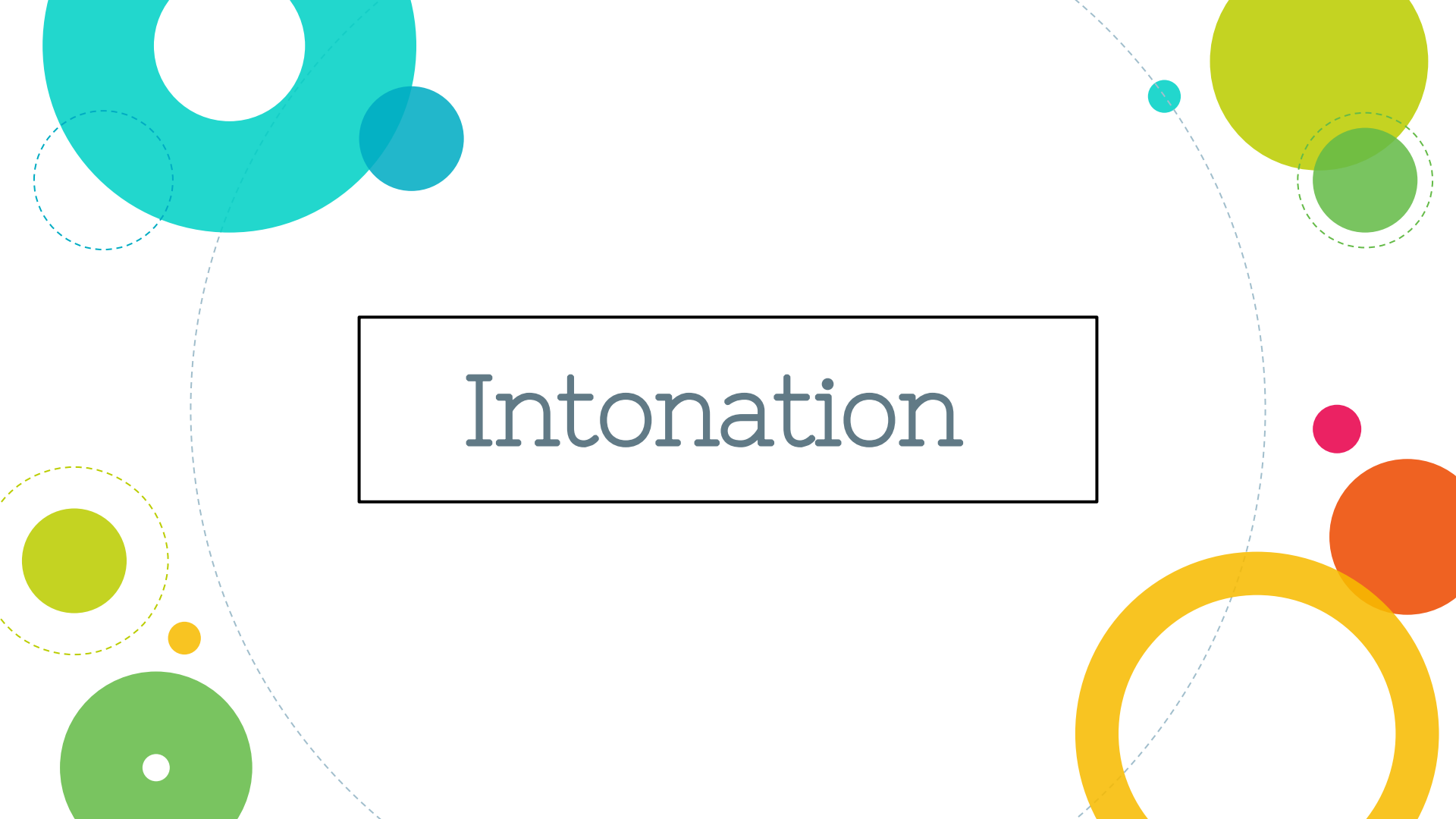


Check Individuals, Duets, Small Groups

“Reward” the best tone.

Always make a point to
identify the best tone being
produced.



The background is white and features several colorful geometric shapes: a large cyan ring in the top-left, a smaller cyan circle next to it, a large lime green circle in the top-right, a smaller green circle with a dashed outline next to it, a large orange circle in the bottom-right, a smaller pink circle next to it, a large green circle with a white center in the bottom-left, a smaller yellow circle next to it, and a large yellow ring in the bottom-right. A dashed light blue line curves around the central text box.

Intonation



DEMONSTRATE

Identify and demo good and poor intonation for students.

A large orange circle is the central focus. Surrounding it are several other circles: a large blue one at the top left, a smaller teal one below it, a small pink one at the top, a yellow one with a dashed border and a white center at the top right, a green one with a white center at the bottom, and a lime green one at the bottom left.

TUNERS

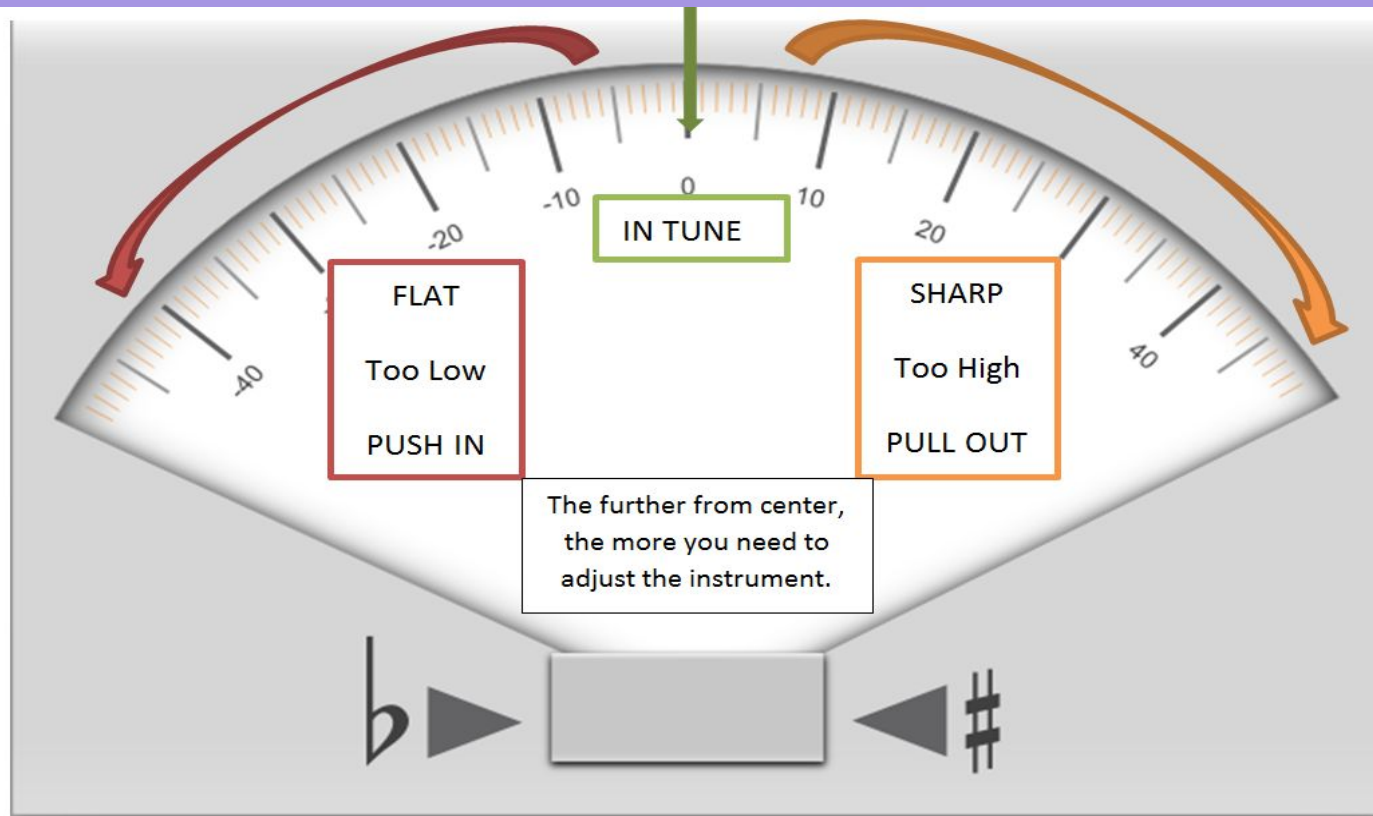
Explain how to read a
tuner!

USE a tuner!

Kids need to learn what
flat, in tune and sharp
sound like.

The tuner will build their
confidence when starting.

Tuning



Reading the Tuner

PERCUSSION NOTES

Flute: E, F, A, Bb (keep slightly sharp)

Oboe: E, A

Clarinet: E for barrel, Upper B for middle and bell

Alto/Bari Sax: G-F# downward slur

Tenor Sax: C

Trumpet: G, B (not actually C)

Horn: G, C (w/t)

Low Brass: F, Bb (upper)

SINGING

If your kids are shy, let them **hum** the notes.

After humming is strong ask kids to drop the mouth open.

Ask your choral specialist to give a lesson on how to properly sing a note.

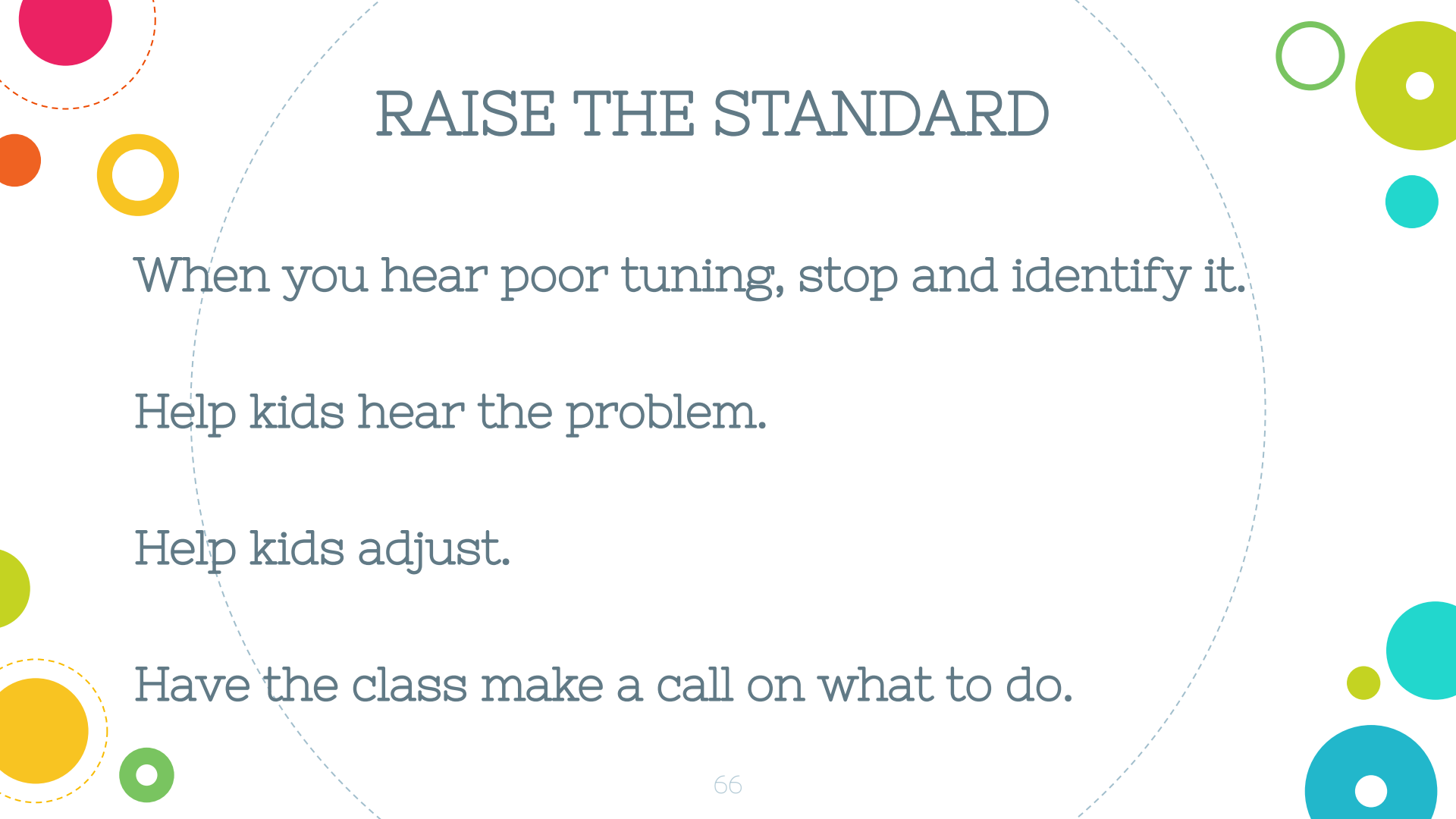


BABY STEPS

Teach tuning tendencies on instruments.



- Start with the absolute worse commonly used notes and build from there.

A large, light blue dashed circle is centered on the page. The background is white. There are several colorful circles of various sizes and colors (red, orange, yellow, green, teal, blue) scattered around the edges of the page. Some of these circles have dashed outlines, while others are solid. The overall design is clean and modern.

RAISE THE STANDARD

When you hear poor tuning, stop and identify it.

Help kids hear the problem.

Help kids adjust.

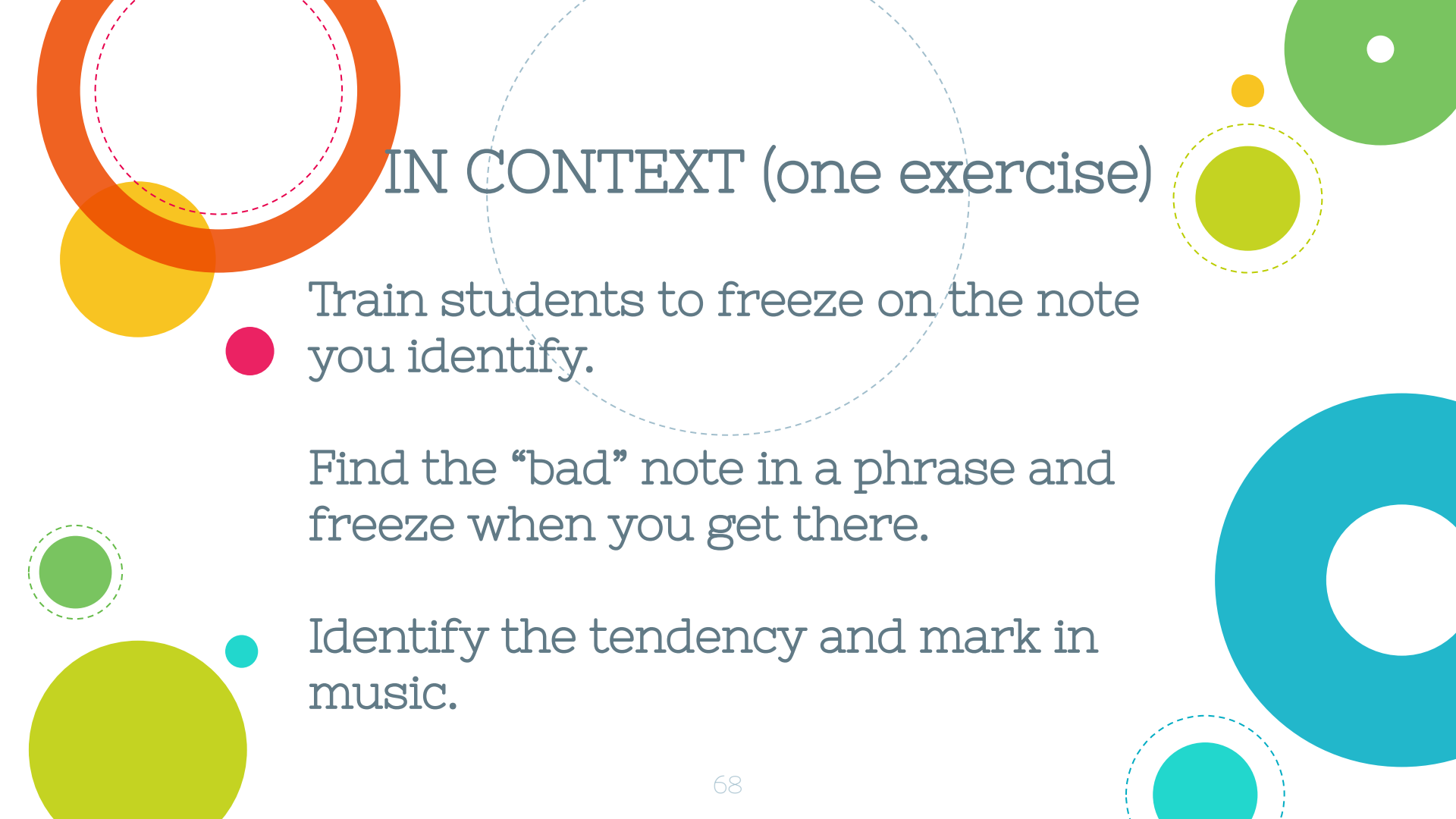
Have the class make a call on what to do.

A decorative background featuring various colored circles (green, yellow, orange, red, blue) and a dashed line forming a large circle. A blue circle with the number "66" is positioned above the title.

66

CONCERT F TUNING RELAY

- © Do this indiv “down the line” and see if students can identify the pitch tendencies.
- © Give the answer if they are wrong so they can start training their ears.

The background features several decorative elements: a large orange ring in the top left, a yellow circle below it, a green circle with a white dot in the top right, a lime green circle with a dashed border below it, a large teal ring in the bottom right, a small green circle with a dashed border on the left, a large lime green circle at the bottom left, and a small teal circle with a dashed border at the bottom right. A large, faint dashed circle is centered behind the text.

IN CONTEXT (one exercise)

- Train students to freeze on the note you identify.

Find the “bad” note in a phrase and freeze when you get there.

- Identify the tendency and mark in music.



TOP 10 TUNING TROUBLE SPOTS

Imitating Passages

Long Notes

Before a Rest

Ends of Phrases

Unisons

Octaves

Perfect 4ths & 5ths

Thin Scoring

Extreme Registers

Extreme Volumes



RECORD!

It is **horrible** and painful
but it will help **fix** things!

The background features a light blue dashed line that forms a large, irregular circular path. Various colored circles are scattered around this path: a large teal circle with a white center in the top left, a smaller teal circle below it, a lime green circle in the top right, a green circle with a white center in the bottom left, a yellow circle in the bottom right, and several smaller circles in orange, pink, and yellow. Some circles have dashed outlines of the same color as the solid ones.

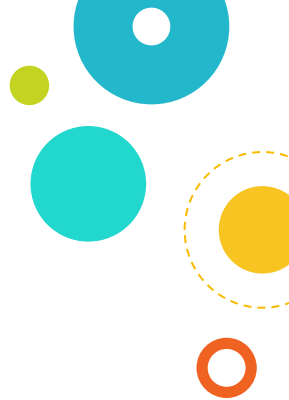
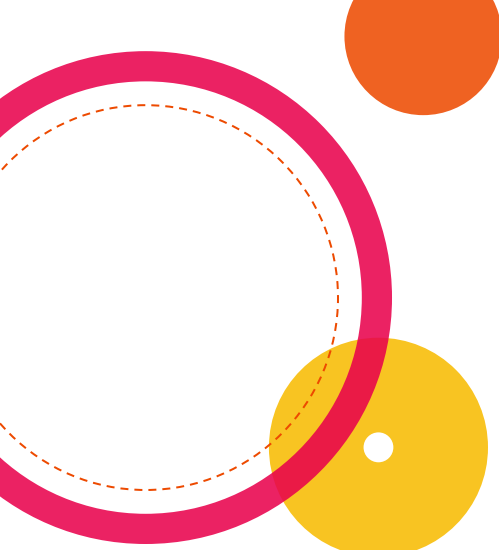
Balance & Blend



Matching Individuals



Indiv. Concert F Down the Row (no
overlap)



Overlapping Concert F Down the Row

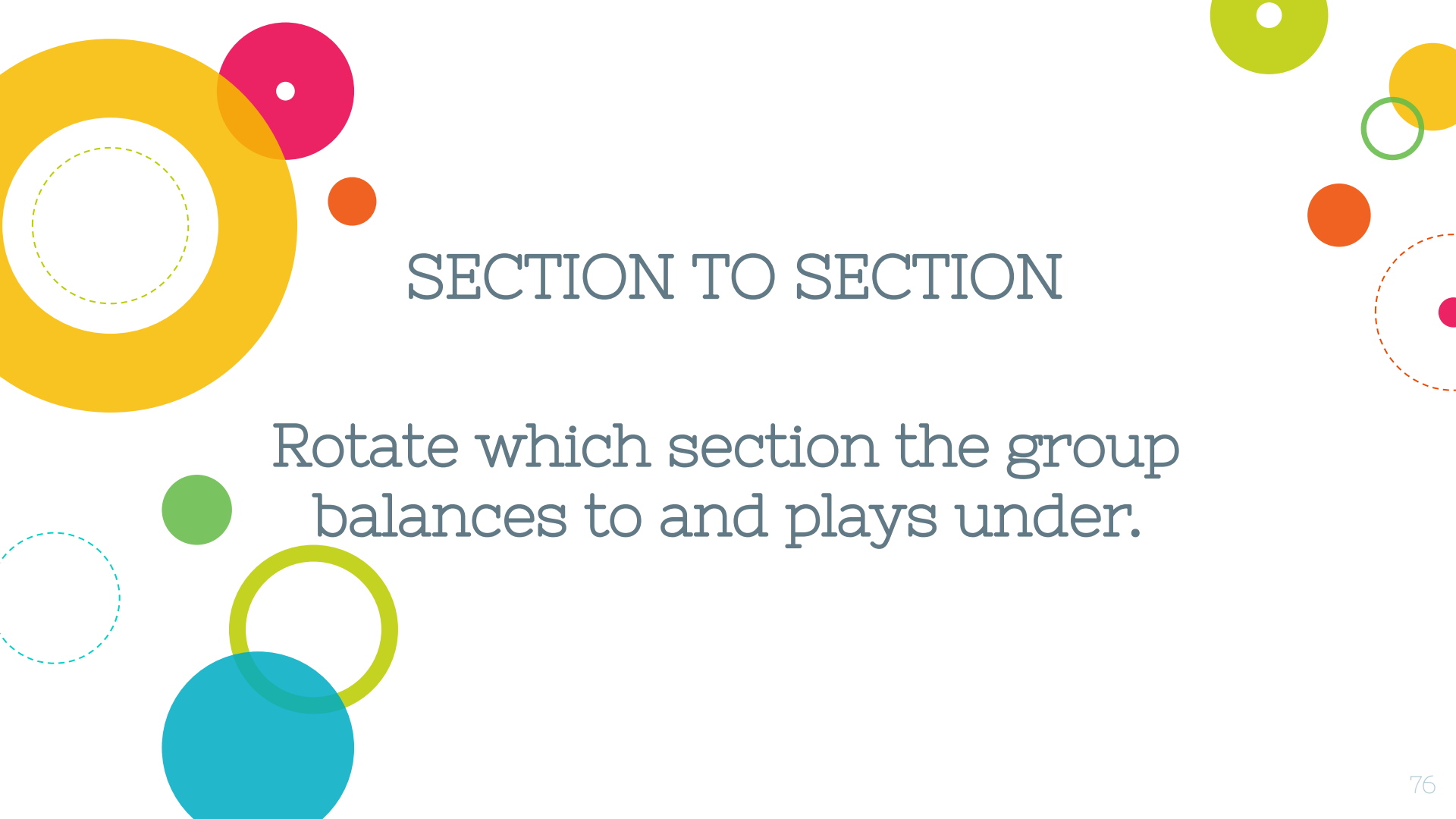
(each player 2 whole notes,
new player enter on count 5)

A decorative graphic featuring a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the central text. The corners of the slide are adorned with various colored circles: pink, orange, yellow, green, and teal. Some circles are solid, while others are dashed or have a white center.

TRIO

Perfectly match player on either
side.

Volume-Tone-Style

A decorative graphic featuring several overlapping circles and rings in various colors including yellow, pink, orange, green, blue, and red. Some circles have dashed outlines, and one has a white center. The shapes are scattered across the slide, with a large yellow circle on the left and a cluster of smaller circles on the right.

SECTION TO SECTION

Rotate which section the group
balances to and plays under.

LAYERING

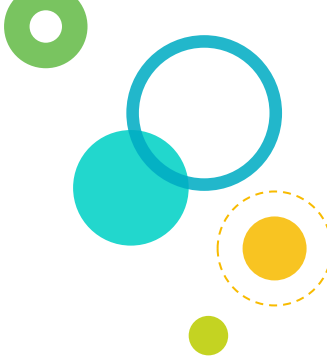
1. Melody
2. Bass Line
3. Counter Melody
4. Harmony

SPECIFIC TRICKS

- ◎ FL balance to CL when FL is octave above CL
- ◎ FL balance to TPT for unison melody
- ◎ CL balance to FL when in same octave
- ◎ AS balance to HRN when unison
- ◎ LOW WW balance to LOW BR on matching lines



SPECIFIC TRICKS

- © EUPH & TU never overblow for volume effect
-creates distortion
 - © BATT PERC balance inside ensemble
 - © EFFECT PERC balance above ENS
 - © BD never louder than TU or TIMP
- 

An abstract graphic design featuring a central white rectangular box with a thin black border. The word "Alignment" is written inside this box in a dark blue, serif font. Surrounding the box is a large, light blue dashed circle. Various colorful geometric shapes are scattered around the page: a large teal ring in the top left, a smaller teal circle next to it, a lime green circle in the top right, a green circle with a dashed outline next to it, a pink circle in the middle right, an orange circle in the bottom right, a yellow ring in the bottom right, a green circle with a white center in the bottom left, a lime green circle with a dashed outline in the middle left, and a small orange circle in the bottom left. The background is white.

Alignment

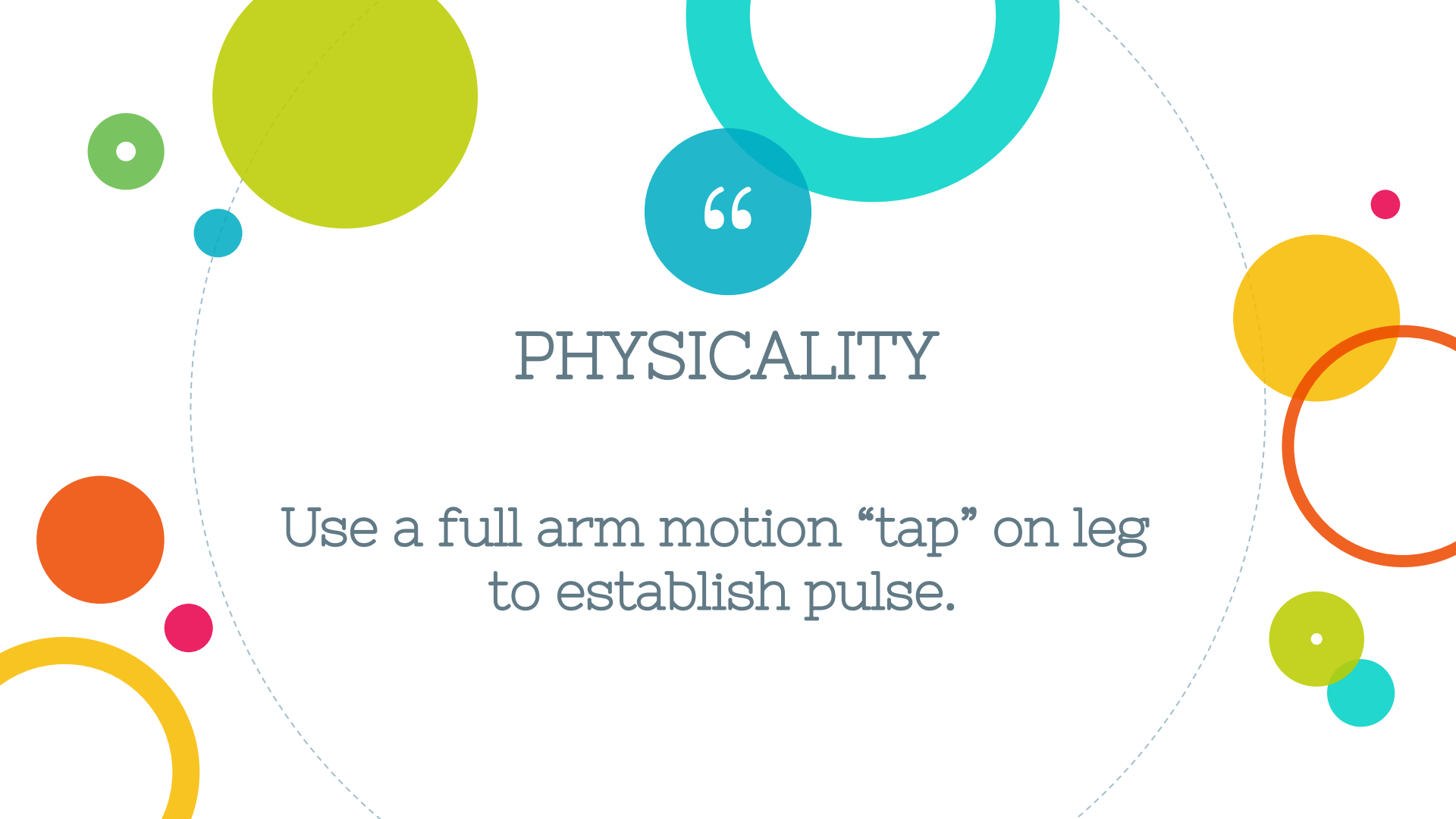
A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles and rings. In the top left, there are pink, orange, and blue circles, some with dashed outlines. In the top right, there are green, blue, and yellow circles, some with dashed outlines. In the bottom left, there is a large green circle with a dashed outline and a smaller yellow circle. In the bottom right, there is a small green circle.

ESTABLISH PULSE

Use a metronome.

Use a metronome.

Use a metronome.

The background features a large, light blue dashed circle. Various colored circles and arcs are scattered around it: a large yellow circle at the top left, a medium blue circle with a white quote mark in the top center, a large orange circle at the top right, a medium orange circle on the right, a large yellow circle at the bottom left, and several smaller circles in green, blue, orange, and pink. A large orange arc is also visible on the right side.

“

PHYSICALITY

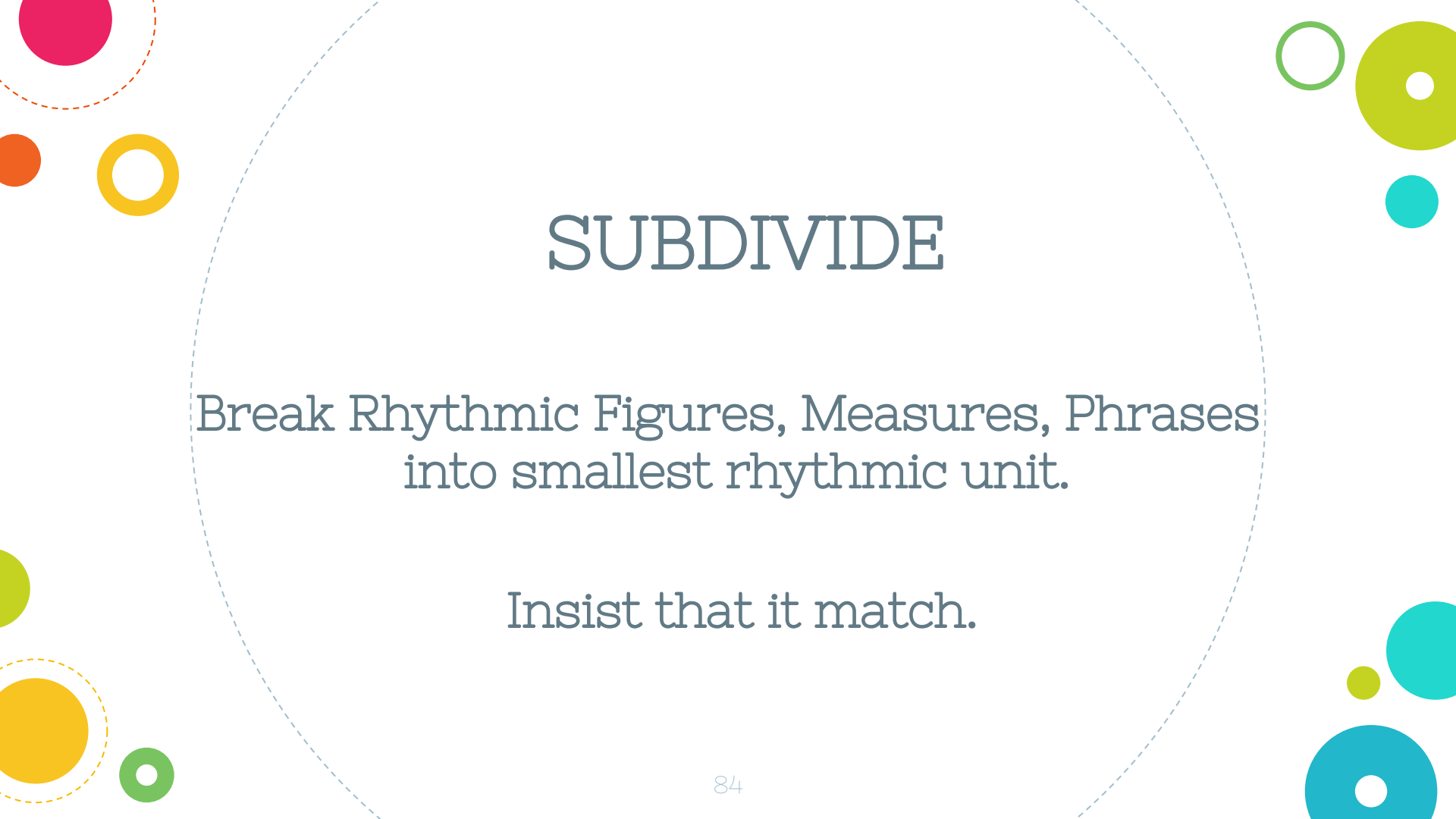
Use a full arm motion “tap” on leg
to establish pulse.



Technical Passages

Think “half-speed”.

SLOW, SMALL CHUNKING is the WAY.



SUBDIVIDE

Break Rhythmic Figures, Measures, Phrases
into smallest rhythmic unit.

Insist that it match.

A decorative graphic featuring several overlapping circles and rings in various colors including yellow, pink, orange, green, blue, and red. Some circles have dashed outlines, and one has a white center. The circles are scattered across the slide, with a large yellow one on the left and a cluster of smaller ones on the right.

BOP

ESPECIALLY USEFUL
in slow and lyrical music but...

ALL music benefits from this exercise.

The background is white and decorated with various geometric shapes. In the top left, there is a large orange circle with a dashed red outline, overlapping a solid yellow circle. Below the yellow circle is a small pink circle. In the top right, there is a green circle with a white center, a small orange circle, and a lime green circle with a dashed yellow outline. In the bottom left, there is a large lime green circle, a small cyan circle, and a green circle with a dashed green outline. In the bottom right, there is a large cyan circle with a white center and a cyan circle with a dashed blue outline. A large, faint dashed blue circle is centered behind the text.

SIZZLE & FINGER NOTES

A large, light blue dashed circle frames the central text. The corners of the slide are decorated with various colored circles (pink, orange, yellow, green, teal) and dashed lines.

RELEASES

Quality of release is often overlooked for timing.

The image features a central white rectangular box with a thin black border, containing the word "Style" in a dark grey, serif font. The background is white and decorated with various colorful geometric shapes: a large teal ring in the top-left, a smaller teal circle next to it, a lime green circle in the top-right, a green circle with a dashed outline next to it, a yellow ring in the bottom-right, an orange circle next to it, a pink circle, a green circle with a white center in the bottom-left, a lime green circle with a dashed outline next to it, and a small orange circle. A dashed light blue line curves around the central box, passing through several of the colored circles.

Style



This is another ENTIRE
clinic topic!

But...

- If nothing else, make a decision and each individual must match your decision.



Thank you!

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