

# **Embouchure**

## **Fundamental Embouchure Techniques**

1. The chin should be pulled down and away from the mouthpiece. It should be flat, like a tabletop.
2. The corners of the mouth should be firm and pulled in towards the mouthpiece. Imagine drinking from a straw or saying “eww”. The corners of the mouth and the upper lip are the only parts of the embouchure that should apply pressure to the mouthpiece. The bottom lip and jaw should not push up into the reed.
3. Be sure that the least amount of lip necessary covers the bottom teeth. Unless the student has very thin lips, one should be able to see the red part of the lip when the mouthpiece is in the mouth.
4. The upper lip should be firm and pushing down, though not under the upper teeth.
5. The jaw should be relatively relaxed. If jaw tension is a problem, try having students imagine creating space inside the oral cavity, though without dropping the jaw.
6. Once a good embouchure has been established, it is important that it move as little as possible. If the embouchure is not relatively stationary, it is difficult to play without squeaking and articulation becomes quite difficult.