

Proper Care of Your Woodwind Instrument

Everyday

- After playing ALWAYS remove your reed first and store it in a reed case. NEVER leave the reed on the instrument!
- Swab out the moisture from inside the instrument. Make sure you have a quality swab that is able to soak up the moisture.
- Gently wipe the keys with a soft cloth. This removes the dirt and oils from your hands and protects the finish.

Every Week

- Reed players – You should always have at least two good reeds at all times. Rotate the usage of your reeds and they will last longer. Replace reeds that are broken, chipped, cracked or discolored (moldy!).
- Grease all clarinet tenon corks and saxophone neck corks. If your instrument is new, this will need to be done more often. Anytime the instrument is hard to put together use a little cork grease. This will protect your corks and make them last longer. Flutes – if the head joint or foot joint is difficult to assemble, clean the joint (both pieces) with a soft cloth, preferably a treated cloth designed to polish a flute. The dirt and tarnish is what makes the joint tight and cleaning should solve the problem.
- Clean your clarinet or saxophone mouthpiece with warm (not hot!!!!) tap water. Never run water through any other part of your instrument. Water will ruin your corks and pads.

Every Month

- Clean out clarinet tone holes with a pipe cleaner, soft cloth or a tone hole brush.
- Check your instrument for damage such as worn pads or corks, loose screws, bent keys, etc. Show your director any problems you find. He will either fix the problem for you, or direct you to a repair shop.
- Flutes – check the position of your head joint cork. Show your director if the cork is out of position and he will adjust it for you.

Other Maintenance

- Never put extra things such as music folders and books in your case unless your case has a designated place. Do not put anything between your instrument and the case lid. The case is designed to protect your *instrument*. Extra items in your case can cause bent keys.
- Always be careful when putting your instrument together. Assemble the instrument exactly how you've been instructed to avoid bending keys or tearing corks.
- Always place your instrument in your lap or on your chair when you're not playing. NEVER stand the instrument on the bell or lay it across a music stand. Gravity can cause much damage to instruments!
- Do not eat or chew gum while playing your instrument.
- Store your instrument in the case and make sure the latches are closed. Do not sit or stand on your case.