

Band Instrument Care

The lessons following each concert will be instrument clean-outs, but you are welcome to do this at any time during the year at home. The following instructions will help guide you in this process.

EVERYONE:

- 2 sharpened **pencils** in case or binder. (Attached with a string is a great way to keep track of it!)
- Clean out case **clutter**.
- Put current **schedule** in binder. Throw out old schedules.
- Enter your new lessons into **Google Calendar** with reminders.
- **Binder order**: put things where they go!
- **Vacuum** case.

WOODWINDS:

1. **Throw** out old reeds that are broken or unusable.
2. Run **cleaning cloth** through inside of instrument twice the opposite way.
3. Wipe **contact points** (where it goes together) of the instrument with a cloth, cleaning off any build up. Use a Q-tip to get the built up cork grease and dust from the inside of the joint connections.
4. Use Q-tip to clean **tone holes** on clarinet, bassoon, oboe. May need a pin to clean oboe tone hole.
5. **Dust** under posts and around springs with Q-tips. Be careful not to unhook springs!
6. Dip a Q-tip in rubbing alcohol, and **clean any metal places** on your instrument. Do NOT get it on the pads.
7. Clarinets/saxes ONLY: Put mouthpiece (not ligature) in a bucket of soapy, lukewarm water. (NOT hot. They can melt.) Using a **mouthpiece brush**, **scrub the inside** and outside of the mouthpiece. Remove any remaining calcium build-up with **vinegar on a Q-tip**. Rinse in clear water. Dry with a soft cloth.
8. **Polish** your instrument with a soft cloth. Flutes--this can really make your instrument shine!



BRASS:

1. Lay out a **towel** and fill a **bucket** about halfway full of warm water. Add a small squirt of dishwashing liquid. (At home, fill your bathtub with a few inches of water, and lay a towel at the bottom of the tub. Add a squirt of soap.) You don't want a lot--bubbles are just excess. The soap will do the work in solution.
2. **Take apart** your instrument, being careful to do it gently, and lay them on the towel. Start with your valves so the pressure is released in the instrument. If you have trouble, ask Mrs. B for help. If your valves aren't numbered, make sure to lay them in order so they don't get mixed up.
3. **Wash** each small part in your bucket using the brushes in the cleaning kit. Scrub out all the nooks and crannies! Long snake is for thinner tubes; wide brush is for the valves; cone shaped brush is for the mouthpiece.
4. Put a drop of soap on the end of your **snake**, and scrub it through all the tubes of your instrument. If you're at home, you can put the parts and the body in the tub and let them soak for about 30 minutes first. This will help loosen anything inside.
5. **Rinse** all the parts and the main body of your instrument with clear water. (see other side)
6. **Dry** all the parts, then re-grease the slides with a little tiny bit of slide grease or Vaseline. Use a molecule thin layer! Too much grease will make them stick and makes a mess. Re-oil your valves, and **reassemble** your instrument. Make sure Valve #1 goes on the side toward your mouthpiece, #2 is in the middle, and #3 is the furthest from your mouth. Valves should click in.
7. **Polish** your instrument with a soft cloth.
8. If you have been sick, you can boil the mouthpiece in water to make sure it is clean (Brass ONLY. Clarinets and saxes DO NOT do this or you will have mouthpiece soup and a wrecked pot.)

PERCUSSION:

1. Take a look at the list of percussion clean up tasks your teacher has. There are ALWAYS things that need to be done! Pick a few and take care of them.
2. To put on a new drum head:
 - Remove the old head by unscrewing the lug nuts with the drum key in an opposite and next order, little by little to release the tension and avoid warping the shell. For example, start by unscrewing the 12 o'clock lug nut a few turns, then the 6 o'clock. Then do the 1 o'clock, then the 7 o'clock. Continue this way to get started. Then go around again releasing more tension until you can take the hoop off.
 - Wipe down the hoop, the lug screws (can be greasy), any washers, and dust the inside of the drum with a soft cloth.
 - Make sure the mute and snare apparatus are working. Leave snare off while tuning.
 - To reattach the head (or a new head):
 - Put the head on the shell, and line up the logo with the top of the snare, opposite the snare apparatus.
 - Put the hoop over it, and add the lugs and washers all the way around.
 - Make sure the mute is off at this point.
 - Screw them down with your hand just until they start to meet resistance.
 - Using a drum key, tighten them in small increments in a 12,6; 1,7; 2,8; 3,9; 4,10; 5,11 order. (There won't be twelve, but that's the easiest way to explain it.) Then go back and do it again, until the head is firm and evenly tightened and you like the pitch. Go around the head with a snare stick, tapping at each lug. The tone should be about the same at each one. If it's not, make fine adjustments. Every adjustment made will affect other nodes, so recheck them.
 - Re-engage the mute and the snare.