

Proper Care and Maintenance-Woodwind Instruments

General Maintenance Tips:

- Do not chew gum, eat food or drink anything (other than water) while playing your instrument
- Do not leave/store your instrument in extremely hot or cold locations (car, near a heater)
- When not playing, store your instrument in the case and make sure that the latches are closed.
- When your instrument is not in the case, always set it down with the keys/ tone holes facing up. Never leave your instrument on your music stand.
- Do not sit or stand on your case and never place objects, like books or folders, inside of your instrument case.
- DO NOT USE TOOLS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT! If something is wrong with your instrument, take it to your music teacher or a qualified instrument repairperson.

Daily Maintenance:

- After playing, use a swab to remove all moisture from inside your instrument. Your teacher will show you the proper way to use your swab.
 - Clarinets – Be careful not to get your swab tangled in the upper joint of your instrument!!

Weekly Maintenance-

- Clean the mouthpiece with warm water and a mouthpiece brush.
- Use cork grease on all joints to keep them from drying out. Cork grease also helps make your instrument easier to put together! Remember – a little goes a long way!!

Reed Care –

- After playing, always remove your reed.
- Store your reeds in a case to keep them from getting broken.
- Reeds that are chipped, cracked or broken should be discarded.
- When putting your reed onto your instrument, be sure the reed and ligature are on correctly:

