

## *Instrument Care*

### General Rules for ALL Instruments

1. Handle all instruments with care.
2. Never touch or play someone else's instrument. Never leave it unattended.
3. Do not eat or chew gum while you are playing your instrument.
4. If you have just eaten something, please rinse your mouth **BEFORE** playing.
5. Always wipe down your instrument. Oils from your hands can cause damage.
6. Remove moisture from your instrument after each use.
  - Woodwinds: Swab instrument; Brasses: Empty spit valves into container.
7. When laying the instrument down always keep the keys/valves facing up.
8. Always store the instrument in the case. *Do not put your book/music in the case.*
9. Make sure your instrument is secure in the case. Make sure the locks are closed.
10. Do not open the case on your lap or chair. Open your case on the floor.
11. Avoid bumping or dropping the case. The case can be damaged if abused.
12. Periodically polish the instrument: Silver-silver polish, Lacquer-lemon oil.
13. Let your teacher know if something is wrong with the instrument or it sounds unusual. **DO NOT TRY TO FIX IT YOURSELF!**

### Woodwinds

1. Swab and wipe instrument everyday.
2. Be careful when you handle your instrument and don't bump into anything. Fragile rods and keys can get damaged.
3. If anything is stuck, **DO NOT FORCE IT!** Ask your teacher for help.
4. Always keep all cork joints greased with cork grease.
5. You must have at least 2 good reeds with you at all times.
6. Periodically oil the keys and clean with a cotton swab (Q-tip).
7. Saxes and clarinets: Wash your mouthpiece at least twice a month.

### Brasses

1. Empty all "water" in a spit container or rag and wipe the instrument everyday.
2. Be careful when you handle your instrument and don't bump into anything. Fragile tubing can get damaged
3. If anything is stuck, **DO NOT FORCE IT!** Ask your teacher for help.
4. Always keep your slides greased and valves oiled with the proper lubricants.
5. **DO NOT** tap your mouthpiece into the instrument.
6. Grease your tuning slides at least twice a month.

### Percussion

1. Take care of your mallets and drumsticks. Do not use them on anything except the appropriate instruments or practice pads. (Do not use them on the ground, table, walls, desks, chairs, etc.). Do not allow others to use your sticks/mallets.
2. Do not abuse the instruments. Although the sounds produced on the instruments are through striking and friction, overplaying will cause damage. (i.e. Do not pound on the drum heads, run the mallets across the keys).
3. Do not strike the bottom of the snare drum
4. Keep all the drum heads, mallet keys, cymbals, etc. clean. Wipe with a cloth.
5. Avoid bumping or dropping the instruments. The instruments are delicate and can be severely damaged without proper caution and care.
6. Be sure the drum is secure on the stand. Do not lean on the instruments.
7. **DO NOT REST ANYTHING ON THE PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS!** (i.e. Books, other heavy objects, folder, your elbows, etc.)