

## Program Objectives

The Steele Canyon High School Instrumental Music program has four main objectives in its educational program.

1. **Educational:** To expand knowledge, technique, and skill as musicians and color guard performers, to provide an outlet for creativity and self expression, and to provide the challenges that high school students seek: leadership, team work, personal growth, and an opportunity to experience the rewards and sense of pride that go along with outstanding achievement. To prepare students for life musically and otherwise beyond high school.
2. **Cultural:** To develop an appreciation for a variety of musical styles and foster an understanding of music history and theory through the study and performance of the best in music and choreography, and to help each student develop his/her aesthetic potential to the utmost.
3. **Service:** To provide cultural and entertainment events for the campus and the community; to lend color, atmosphere, and spirit to certain athletic events and school functions.
4. **Social and Recreational:** To provide a source of enjoyment that can endure throughout life, enhance the quality of high school life, and provide an opportunity for the worthy use of leisure time, and provide an emotional outlet and social interaction.

# Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Culture

In all different societies there are certain ways of doing things. This is a part of their culture. We're not talking about art or pottery, just *behavior*. In the instrumental music department, we have certain ways of doing things as well, and this is our culture. It's the pride and good attitude that we all strive toward as an organization to make it better. It's an attitude of professionalism, excellence in performance, and determination. It's a culture that places the group above the individual. This culture goes beyond grades and expectations; it's the spirit within the group that makes it excellent. Ask yourself often if your actions are ones in which the Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Culture is bettered. The following are some guidelines for your success in this department, but the bottom line is: Do the Right Thing.

- 1. Be Early to Rehearsal** Arrive to extra rehearsals at least 10 to 15 minutes early and warm up on your instrument or equipment as well as stretch out physically. Be prepared mentally, physically and musically for rehearsal to begin on time.
- 2. Avoid Wasting Time** Develop a quiet atmosphere at rehearsals. Learn to have total concentration on the task at hand whether in rehearsal or performance.
- 3. Be Organized** Take good care of all your music, equipment, instrument, uniform, etc. Respect yourself enough to always have your music, dot book, etc. with you at every rehearsal and in an organized and usable state. Make sure your uniform and instrument or equipment is in good condition throughout the year. The biggest problem is usually neglect. Take the time to put away your equipment, uniform, etc. properly after each rehearsal and performance.
- 4. Give 100% All the Time** How you practice determines how you perform. Don't sell yourself or your fellow students short: give it *all* you've got *all* the time. Every single member of the group is accountable for the success of the group.
- 5. Be Respectful and Patient with All Instructors** The instructional staff puts out a tremendous effort on your behalf. Help them help you by being polite, attentive, and helpful. When it comes time to perform, you will be glad you tapped into the experience and expertise of the staff.
- 6. Act Appropriately at all Activities** Vulgar language and socially unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated. Complete professionalism is expected at all performances. Your behavior is equally important at rehearsals. Many people are offended by non-politically correct behavior and we all have to work together to accomplish our goals-- so think before you act or speak.
- 7. Accept Criticism Without Excuses** Criticism should always be given and received in a constructive manner. Do not take it personally and do not make it personal when you are receiving or giving criticism.

**8. Practice Individually Between Rehearsals** Individual perfection takes place outside of rehearsal time. You must work on your music, marching, and/or routines on your own for the group rehearsals to be effective.

**9. Memorize** In marching band it is necessary to memorize all music, and that's not just knowing most of it. "It kind of goes like this..." is not good enough. Music will be completely memorized including dynamic markings, articulation markings, rehearsal letters-- everything!

**10. Deal With It** Whatever it is, learn to deal with it and always try to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. Figure it out!

## Performing Groups

The Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Department has seven main performing groups: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Color Guard, and Jazz Band. It should be stressed that each group is within the department and that the Steele Canyon Band Parents (the parent association hereafter referred to as SCBP) supports *all* groups.

**Bands: Concert, Symphonic and Marching Band:** The bands are composed of all wind instrument students. Open auditions are held for Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band at the end of the school year for the following year. Concert Band is the designated band for first year members and also open to all students wishing to play a band instrument. During the school day the bands meet during different class periods.

During the fall, all three bands are primarily a marching band which performs during football half time shows, parades, and field competitions. They have a very busy rehearsal and performance schedule during this time. The bands practice for marching band and perform together. The bands perform in the school Winter Concert in December.

During the spring, the bands are sit-down concert bands and perform at festivals and concerts.

**Percussion Ensemble:** This class is made up of all percussion students. All students in this class are members of the "Steele Regiment: Pride of the Canyon" Band and go to all extra marching rehearsals as is discussed in the previous section. All members of the percussion class are expected to learn and perform on all instruments associated with percussion playing, including keyboard mallet instruments.

During Quarters three and four, percussion ensemble students are scheduled into the Concert and Symphonic Bands to best accommodate rehearsing the concert music of the spring.

During the spring, Percussion Ensemble is known as Winter Drumline and competes in indoor competitions held in Southern California. They also participate in the department's end of the year concert.

**Color Guard:** Color Guard consists of everyone enrolled in the Color Guard class.

In the fall Color Guard is a part of the Steele Regiment and during parades members perform with flags. During field shows and half time shows Color Guard performs with various flags to help express the emotion conveyed in a good show.

During the spring, Color Guard is known as Winterguard and competes in indoor competitions held in Southern California. They also participate in the department's end of the year concert.

**Jazz Band:** The Jazz Band studies various genres of jazz literature and students work on the art of improvisation. They perform in the department's concerts, have gigs of their own, and go to jazz band festivals.

## Grading and Attendance Policies

This section lays out expectations for grading and attendance. It is the overriding philosophy of this department that if a student attends rehearsals and performances, acts professionally and does their job musically or otherwise, they should receive an "A" grade. The grading policy is discussed later in this section. First, of primary concern is attendance.

A musical organization can be compared to a delicate interrelated ecosystem: when a part is not present, the whole decays. Excellent attendance is critical to the success of our organization. It is Grossmont Union High School District policy that all students enrolled in performance classes (as all instrumental music department students are), must be required to attend all rehearsals and performances. These out of class rehearsals and performances are considered *curricular* (versus extra-curricular) and therefore are taken into consideration for grading. Please refer to the grading tables later for specific deductions.

**How to excuse absences:** Absences to rehearsals, sectionals, and performances must be excused using the following procedure, or deductions will be made from a student's grade.

The following events qualify an absence as excused:

1. Illness severe enough to preclude the student from playing (or marching)
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Family emergency (information regarding this emergency may be required by the director)

4. Appointments that cannot be rescheduled (Parents: do not make appointments during rehearsals or performances; a grade deduction may be made)
5. Court appearance
6. Other school commitment that is deemed necessary by the director or other Steele Canyon teacher.

If an absence qualifies, fill out a **Green Form** (available outside Ms. Luck's office) that is signed by a parent and turn it in within two days of the student's return. Often the director will require a note from a doctor or other source of an absence in addition to the green form. If the absence is planned, the Green Form must be filled out *before* the absence occurs. Also, students should call Ms. Luck to notify her of an unexpected absence *before* it occurs, or the absence may not be excused. Parents, I appreciate your help in teaching responsibility to your students.

Please fill out a green form for a music department absence even if a student is absent at school on the same day.

Tardies must be excused with Green Forms as well. The same reasons listed above qualify Tardies as excused.

**GRADING:** Grading in instrumental classes is based half on attendance and half on music. For Percussion Ensemble and Color Guard there are slight variations to this. The following describes each of those grading factors:

**Attendance Grading:** Generally speaking, for Band, Percussion Ensemble and Color Guard, attendance grades are figured by the following matrix. All grades are figured accumulatively within each semester. During school convention performances are not counted for grading. Having the correct equipment, instruments and accessories, sheet music and attire all is factored into the attendance grade. A student may not receive credit or full credit (at a director's discretion) for attending if they do not have all required items or concert dress (black socks!). This is part of the professionalism that is expected of all students in this department. The following describes the deductions made for absences.

<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Consequence</u>
One unexcused missed performance	"F" attendance grade
Two unexcused missed performances	"F" grade in class
For every Unexcused missed Tues. grade night to	Drop attendance two letter grades ("A" "C" etc.)
For every Unexcused missed march-grade 1 ing rehearsal or sectional "B")	Drop attendance letter grade ("A" to "B")
For every 4 Unexcused tardies grade 1	Drop attendance letter grade

**Music Grading** 50% of the final grade, based on the following point system:

50 Points for each written or playing test (testing will occur about every two weeks—can be more or less) based on the following distribution: A= 45-50, B= 40-44, C= 35-39, D= 30-34, F 0-29. The rubric for grading is equitable with the music testing rubric on page 41 of the handbook.

10 Points for each scale requirement passed. For each year, this requirement is different; read further for details. For each scale missed, it is equivalent of a “zero,” with ten points missing. Seniors have no scale requirement. They will have another project discussed later in the year.

The student's final music grade will be based on the percentage of points earned compared to the total of points possible from tests, scales or other projects on this scale: A= 90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 0-59%

**Extra Credit** points for the music grade may be earned in the following ways (an "Extra Credit Slip" must be submitted to earn this credit):

15 Points for attending a private lesson of at least one half hour duration with an appropriate instructor

10 Points for attending a professional or university-level instrumental music concert (check with director to make sure credit may be earned for the concert you have in mind before attending)

10 Points for attending a sectional at least 45 minutes in duration in which at least 80% of section's members are present

5 Points for practicing with someone(s) else who plays the same instrument for at least 45 minutes in duration

**Scales:** For each year in band there are scale requirements (listed below). A student that completes *all* the scale requirements for their year will receive an "A" grade for scales. A student that completes less than all scales required but more than half shall receive a "C" grade for scales. A student that completes less than half **shall fail the course**. This is part of the standards established for Instrumental Music Steele Canyon High School. Once a scale is passed off, it never needs to be passed off again.  
Requirements:

**First year, 1<sup>st</sup> term:** Six Major Scale Exercises, all at quarter note=80 bpm

**First year, 2<sup>nd</sup> term:** Twelve Major Scale exercises, all at quarter note=80 bpm

**Second year:** Twelve Natural Minor scale exercises, Twelve Major Arpeggios all at quarter note=80 bpm

**Third year:** Twelve melodic minor scales, all at quarter note=80 bpm

**Fourth year:** All above requirements passed off or the student **shall fail the course**.

**Practicing:** It should go without saying that all students in the department have homework: practicing. In order to achieve excellence, individual practice is necessary by every member to learn parts and not take up group rehearsal time. All students in the department are asked to practice three hours per week regardless of their ability.

Private lessons are **strongly encouraged** to all students to improve their ability on their own instrument. Private lesson time counts as extra credit in grading. Sectionals and practice time in small groups also can count for extra credit. Extra rehearsals for orchestra, band, pep band, etc. do *not* count towards extra credit.

**Quizzes/Auditions/Tests:** Throughout the year for band, there will be planned written or performance music quizzes on the repertoire or based on lectures in music appreciation, history, theory, and conducting. Marching Band section leaders assign musical performance grades to students on the field show music during the fall season. The end of the term auditions will also be graded. Spot testing on sections of music will take place throughout the year.

**Solo/Ensemble Festival:** The Solo and Ensemble Festival is a great opportunity for students to prepare a solo or participate in a chamber music group and perform for a judge. All Band members are encouraged to participate. Extra Credit will be given to those that perform. An extra credit form should be filled out to receive points. Please see the section on Solo/Ensemble Festival in this handbook for additional information.

**Other Attendance/Performance Issues:** Because all musical groups rely heavily on having all of its members present for rehearsal and then performance, the following is the policy established for rehearsal absence and performance exclusion. Just like any athletic team, failure to attend practices by a member will result in the exclusion of that member from performance. It is noted that performance exclusion may and often does result from *excused* absences. Sick or not, a member who doesn't show for rehearsal hurts the group in performance.

In general, if a student is absent two or more block periods the day of a performance, or if the student is absent two or more block periods on the Friday before a Saturday performance, the student will be excluded from performance. Assuming the absence from school is excused, the performance will automatically be excused as well.

*Unless a student is excused, (by a green form) a student who is excluded from performance **still must attend** the performance or the student's grade will be dropped accordingly.*

Steele Regiment (Fall Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble Color Guard): For any given week with a competition/performance on the Saturday ending the week, these shall be the policies:

<u>Occurrence:</u>	<u>Consequence:</u>
Failure to attend Tuesday Night Friday rehearsal	May not perform night or Saturday
Failure to attend two or more marching Friday rehearsals (sectionals included)	May not perform night or Saturday
Failure to attend last marching from rehearsal	Possible exclusion performance

Alternates may be used to replace students with excessive absences or who are excluded from performances because of the above.

Winterguard: Failure to attend two after school practices within a given week immediately preceding a competition automatically excludes the student from performance.

Winter Drumline: Failure to attend two after school practices within a given week immediately preceding a competition automatically excludes the student from performance.

### **Band and Percussion Ensemble Grading:**

Grades are distributed as follows all year long:

Attendance	50%
Music	50%

### **Color Guard Grading:**

Grades are distributed as follows:

Attendance	50%
Performance Improvement	50%

Performance improvement is ascertained by a performance test and final

## **Music Memorization Testing Rubric (for Marching Band)**

### **Field Show:**

- "A" All notes memorized and the student performs musically with correct rhythms, articulation, and dynamics
- "B" All notes but a few are memorized and the student performs most passages musically
- "C" Most of the notes are memorized and there are some passages which are performed musically
- "D" Sections of music are not memorized and little musicality is demonstrated. An attempt was made, and the student finished the piece.
- "F" Student didn't try or gave up midway and/or very little is memorized

# How to Practice

**WHY:** It is the policy of the Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Department that all students practice on their instrument at least three hours per week in addition to scheduled rehearsal time. It is especially important when all groups meet only every other day that this outside practice take place. Students will not achieve their full musical potential in the group or individually without outside practice.

**WHERE:** Find a place to practice that is free from distractions: no TV, computer, phone, etc. If possible, find a spot that will not disturb others much, or that you will not be constantly self-conscious about others listening. Sit in a straight-backed chair so your breathing will not be impeded.

**WHEN:** Establish a regular time to practice. Practicing in four 45-minute blocks is more effective than three hours at once. Be aware of how other activities will affect your practice. Practicing right after an athletic practice may not leave you with the energy you need. Right after dinner your stomach will be full and you may be too sleepy to practice effectively.

**MATERIALS:** Instrument, music stand, method book, sheet music metronome, accessories

**WHAT:** Establish a routine to your practice that includes the following:

1. Mental Preparation Focus all your energies to music. Plan for what you want to accomplish. Get in the spirit of music-making. Think about your long-term goals as well.

2. Warm up This should include long tones for wind players, a variety of bowing patterns for string players, and eight on a hand type exercises for percussionists. Use of a metronome will force you to be accurate and consistent (yes, use a metronome during long tones). *Really listen to your tone as you warm up and have the sound of a professional player in your head and try to match it.*

3. Scales Velocity exercises, thirds, and arpeggios in all major and minor keys, or if there is not time, work on those keys which need attention or need to be learned.

4. Method Book/Technical Exercises You should own a method book that is appropriate to your ability level and work through it in small chunks. See one of our local music stores and make a selection. This section should include lip slurs for brass players.

5. Repertoire Focus your practice on what you need to improve on. Avoid the common mistake of practicing what you know-- this will not make you better.

- a. Difficult passages: work on areas that are technically demanding by setting the metronome at a very slow tempo and working your way up to the marked tempo. Force yourself to play the rhythms and notes accurately slowly first. Don't go faster until you've perfected it slow first.

b. Phrasing and Expression: Work on getting everything out of the music that you can dynamically and expressively with good tone. Make sure your phrasing makes sense musically. Think about the musical line and whether you are interpreting and understanding what is implied in the music.

c. Work on a Solo: Always have a solo that you're perfecting and could play at any given moment or have ready for a challenge.

6. Warm down Wind players especially need to warm down on long tones to avoid capillary damage in their lips.

### **OTHER TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Take Private Lessons Your musicality and knowledge will increase greatly with a good private teacher. The staff at Steel Canyon can only give you so much; private lessons are what most of our really good players have in common. See Ms. Luck for teacher suggestions.

2. Listen to Recordings of Professionals You need to have the "sound in your head" of what your instrument sounds like played by a professional. This is how all the pros arrived at their sounds. Having a good characteristic tone is the most important thing you need to do (and remember you *can* buy better tone quality: make sure you play on a quality mouthpiece-reed-sticks, etc).

3. Play in Small Ensembles Musicians agree that this is one of the most effective ways to improve your musicianship, where it's one on a part and you're responsible for that part. Everyone in the ensemble learns from one another in this situation, spoken and unspoken.

4. Music to Work on: Practicing the same audition music for a year will not improve you as much as attempting and rehearsing a wide variety and larger quantity of music. This will give you more musical depth and that will show in your next audition.

## SCBP Fair Share

The Grossmont Union High School District does not fund the Instrumental Music Program to the level at which it operates. In order to compete successfully, certain expenses occur which allow the program to run effectively, including coaching, uniforms, equipment, etc. Parents are asked to help with our expenses by making a pledge for the year. This pledge is a donation and is not a requirement for participate or effect the student's grade in the class. Parents who have financial need should speak to the teacher, coach, or the school administration for alternate ways to assist our program.

There is a commitment structure which distributes these expenses fairly and evenly amongst students that is administered by SCBP, the Steel Canyon Band Parents, a California non-profit corporation. Contributions pay for the following expenses (percentages are typical):

Transportation	25%
Coaches and Clinicians	25%
Field Show Arrangement & Drill	10%
Flag Equipment	8%
Entry Fees	7%
Instrument Parts and Repair	5%
Music	5%
Awards	5%
Meals	3%
Uniform Cleaning	3%

Costs are distributed differently among students depending on what section they are enrolled in.

# Rehearsal and Practice Schedules

## Fall Steele Regiment Band

During the fall, the full band (Concert and Symphonic Bands, and Percussion Ensemble) must rehearse fourth period "A" days to accomplish all it needs to achieve excellence. In addition, there is a weekly Tuesday night rehearsal from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. As mentioned previously, it is very important that everyone attend. Each week on the Thursday or Friday that the Marching Band class meets, practice may go as late as 3:30 p.m. Colorguard also meet Mondays 3-5 and Tuesday 5-9.

Practices may end earlier, but never go later than scheduled.

See master calendar for when marching band rehearsals end.

## All Groups

**After School Sectionals:** Band section leaders and Color Guard officers are required to schedule at 1 after school sectional each week during the marching season, and all section leaders (band) will have to schedule at least three sectionals during the spring festival season. The section leaders will take roll and attendance will count towards each student's grade. Section leaders must give at least two day's notice for these mandatory sectionals. Section leaders may schedule other optional sectionals. The duration of these sectionals will be of a minimum of 30 minutes each.

**Spring Festival Rehearsals:** A schedule will be distributed in January listing after school rehearsals for the bands and orchestra for preparing for spring festival. Such rehearsals take place no more than once per week per group.

**Winterguard and Winterline:** From January through the second week of April, Color Guard practices for the intense Winterguard Winter drumline activity. Extra practices often occur indoors to insure excellence. It difficult to reserve time in the gym, so practices may take place at strange times. Practice schedules will be announced as the season draws near. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Athletics Conflicts:** The Director believes that all students should be able to participate in as many activities in high school as possible, while also being firm about the commitment that is made when a student joins a musical organization. Really, the only conflicts that occur with athletics are during the fall with marching band. The Director will work with the athletic coaches on campus to make sure something can be worked out. If there is an athletic conflict, please see the Director before the season starts to work out schedules.

# Rehearsal Guidelines

To achieve excellence, all groups must have efficient and productive rehearsals.

## **Instrumental Groups:**

1. Students should have their instrument, music, and pencil ready and in their seat by the downbeat time set by the conductor. Strings should be tuned by this time.
2. Play only when told to and play only what is written.
3. Don't talk when the conductor is talking, even if it's about the music. If you must talk within your section about something musical, please let the conductor know that you need to do this.
4. Ask questions!
5. In marching band, remain at the position of attention and in your spot unless told to do otherwise.
6. No gum is allowed.

## **Color Guard:**

1. Students shall wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Students with long hair should keep scrunchies/pony tail holders in the flag room to hold their hair back with. Students shall not wear jeans, open toed shoes or shoes without laces, or jewelry.
2. Students shall bring to rehearsal a pencil/pen, equipment, water bottle (optional), small notebook (field), and drill charts (field).
3. No gum is allowed.
4. Don't talk during rehearsal, even it's about the work.
5. Ask questions!
6. Remain at the position of attention and in your spot unless you are told to do otherwise.

## Parental Responsibilities

The director and SCBP will do its best to ensure the safety and provide for the education of students, but cannot be held liable in all situations. The following informs parents of their responsibilities for their students:

1. Parents shall provide transportation to and from Steele Canyon for all rehearsals, trips, and performances. Students are not excused from rehearsals or performances due to transportation problems. Each student will be given the opportunity to phone home after events. The director, staff, and SCBP are not responsible for students after this reasonable period of time, so *parents are encouraged to pick up their students as soon as possible*.
2. Parents are responsible for lost or damaged instruments, uniforms, or other department supplies or equipment used by their students.
3. For trips in which transportation is not provided by the district or SCBP, parents are requested to volunteer driving students. Percussion, Winterguard, and Winterline events may be canceled without enough parental support.
4. As the district cannot provide enough monetary assistance to support a successful instrumental music program, parents are requested to take part in SCBP meetings, activities, and fund-raisers to help support their student's education.

# Football Games

The Steele Regiment Band participates in all home football games. Here are the basic procedures:

During the school day students will wear their polo shirt or band jacket to demonstrate school spirit and pride for the band.

1. Call time will be announced early in the week. Students will arrive before or at call time and get into uniforms and warm up on their own. Section leaders will take roll and check uniforms. The band will warm up as a group at the time written on the board.
2. The band marches over to the stadium. The band marches down the track and plays the Star Spangled Banner if requested.
3. During the game the band sits in the stands and plays pep songs occasionally. No non-members may sit with the band.
4. The band performs a field show for half-time.
6. Students may not leave the band's seating area unless it is to the restroom. Students going to the restroom must go in pairs and must tell a SCBP parent.
7. **No eating or drinking at or from the snack bar!**

# Uniforms, Care, and Responsibilities

As performers, all students in the department have various uniforms to wear during parades, concerts, festivals, etc. Students will not be allowed to perform without the correct dress. For any uniform that is owned by the school and checked out by a student, the parent and student are financially responsible for until it is checked back in. It is required that students put their name on all uniform parts they own (shoes, etc., but not on jacket, pants, or hats).

**Concert Dress:** For all Bands for all concerts and festivals.

Men: Black tuxedos, black socks, and black shoes.

Women: Black formal and black shoes (no flip flops). All attire will have sleeves covering the shoulder and upper arm, and have a modest neckline with dress length past the knee.

**Marching Band (winds and percussion):**

Provided by the school: plume, hat, tunic (coat), pants.

To be provided by the student: black marching shoes, black socks, undershirt, shorts or spandex to be worn under the uniform. Shoes can be purchased for \$25 from SCBP or a student can purchase them on their own. Students can try to purchase used shoes from SCBP for \$10 if they find some that are the correct size. Students will have to pay to replace lost gloves and shoes. A band polo shirt (\$25) is also appropriate to change into once they are out of their uniform. The band also has loaner shoes and polo shirts to be borrowed by a member who cannot provide one for himself. Please contact the director if this needs to be arranged. A band jacket for \$25 is optional, but strongly encouraged.

**Jazz Band:** Men and Women: Black dress shirt, black slacks (no jeans), black socks, dress shoes (marching shoes okay)

**Color Guard Uniforms:** The field, winterguard, and travel uniforms vary from year to year.

**Care, Responsibilities, for School Uniforms:** Uniforms are very expensive and must be treated by students with respect if they are to last.

1. All band students must wear their own shorts or spandex (in addition to underwear) and undershirt under their uniform.
2. Uniforms are to be put away **folded** properly on a hangar in the correct closet by all students.
3. Replacements for lost gloves and shoes must be bought by students from SCBP.
4. Anything put in hats for storage will be confiscated. Hats are not for storage.
5. Eating or gum chewing is not allowed in uniform. Students may drink only clear liquids in uniform.

# Instrument Care and Cleaning

Moisture, fingerprints, and dust cause the most damage to musical instruments. Moisture left in and on instruments will ruin pads and rust the key mechanisms on woodwinds, and corrode finishes on valves and trombone slides. As important as it is to keep an instrument clean, it is equally important to keep instruments lubricated. Lack of lubrication will also cause excessive wear to key mechanisms, valves, and trombone slides.

In general, take of your instrument inside and out of its case-- don't leave it lying around outside your locker and be careful how you handle it when you take it home or travel. The better you treat your instrument, the longer it will last. Get your instrument checked over at least once per year by a musical instrument repair technician.

## **Cleaning of Woodwinds:**

After every playing:

1. Remove reed from mouthpiece. Remove mouthpiece. Drain all moisture, swab out insides (except saxes), and wipe all fingerprints from key mechanisms and outside of instrument.

Every week:

1. Remove the mouthpiece cap and ligature from mouthpiece (clarinets and saxes) and wash mouthpiece in lukewarm water (NOT HOT) and mild soap. Rinse and dry.
2. Remove dust between and underneath keys.
3. Grease corks before they feel dry, or if the instrument is hard to assemble.

Every 6-8 weeks:

1. Lubricate key mechanisms with a small drop of key oil wherever one metal part moves against another.
2. Wipe off excess oil. Too much oil collects dust and ruins pads.

## **Cleaning of Brasses:**

After every playing:

1. Drain all water from the instrument and wipe off all fingerprints.

Every week:

1. Oil valves (and handslide on trombones). Remember that if valves and handslides become sluggish, the instrument is already being ruined.

Every 6-8 weeks (more often during marching season):

*Piston Valve Instruments*

1. Remove and soak all piston valves, slides, mouthpieces, and the rest of the instrument in lukewarm water and mild soap.
2. Clean insides of slides with a brush.
3. Rinse, air dry thoroughly, lubricate valves and slides, reassemble instrument, and polish outside (don't use metal polish on lacquered instruments, use special polish from a music store).

#### *Rotary Valve Instruments*

1. Run lukewarm water and mild soap through instrument, pressing down keys so water goes through entire instrument.
2. Remove and soak slides and mouthpiece in lukewarm water and soap.
3. Clean insides of slides with a brush.
4. Rinse, air dry thoroughly, lubricate valves and slides, reassemble, and polish instrument (don't use metal polish on lacquered instruments, use special polish from a music store).

#### *Trombones*

1. Remove and soak handslide, tuning slide, mouthpiece, and the rest of the instrument in lukewarm water and mild soap.
2. Wipe off all lubricant from handslide, and brush out insides of handslide and tuning slide.
3. Rinse, air dry thoroughly, lubricate, reassemble, and polish instrument (don't use metal polish on lacquered instruments, use special polish from a music store).
4. Bass trombones use above procedure, except for running soapy water through instrument as in "1" of rotary valve instrument, and only soak handslide, tuning slide, and mouthpiece in "1" above.

# Course Materials

## **Provided:**

Music

Music folder

Additional curricular materials

## **Required:**

Instrument and mouthpiece (some are available for check out from the school)

Percussion sticks and mallets (for percussionists)

Concert Dress

Mutes as required by the repertoire (*not* provided by the school)

Oils needed for your instrument's lubrication

Other supplies needed to keep your instrument functioning properly (clean out swabs, trombone water sprays, etc.)

## **Recommended:**

Metronome

Tuner

Instrument Stand

Fold up music stand for practice at home and your own gigs

Repair tools (small screwdriver for woodwinds, etc.)

Stick Bag for percussionists

## Flag and Pole Care

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1. Do not throw equipment.
2. Do not do anything to poles that may warp, break them, or destroy tips.
4. Keep your practice flag in your own hole in the flag room. Never leave equipment in the band room.
5. Keep flag room and flag storage room clean