

PRACTICE TIPS FOR BAND STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The simplest suggestion may make a big difference!!! Read the suggestions below and see if there is something that you might have overlooked or forgotten. Do not be afraid to try something new!

FLUTE

- ✓ Flute should be parallel or slightly below parallel to the floor
- ✓ Flute to head, not head to flute
- ✓ Relax the embouchure and use a slight frown
- ✓ Fingers should be slightly curved, but do not overreach where fingers hang over the keys
- ✓ Open mouth and throat ... create a full tone!
- ✓ To raise a pitch for minor adjustments, roll the flute out
- ✓ To lower a pitch for minor adjustments, roll the flute in
- ✓ If there is a tuning problem, the head cork in the head joint may need to be adjusted ... see a director for help with this!

CLARINET

- ✓ Keep your head up/Keep the bell about even with the top of your knees
- ✓ Chin down and flat; Keep corners firm (if you're doing this right, these muscles should ache a bit at first until you get used to it)
- ✓ Do not "over wrap" the bottom lip
- ✓ Fingers should be only slightly curved
- ✓ Pads of fingers should cover holes ... NOT fingertips
- ✓ Tongue light and quick
- ✓ Top teeth on mouthpiece, covered over by top lip
- ✓ Embouchure firm, clarinet in center of mouth
- ✓ Squeaks? Try less mouthpiece, check reed for chips/cracks/warps, check fingers to make sure they are covering holes completely
- ✓ Use cold, FAST air

SAXOPHONE

- ✓ Lower jaw, somewhat relaxed
- ✓ Keep embouchure round, open throat
- ✓ Tongue lightly
- ✓ Fill saxophone with *warm* air—keep your throat relaxed
- ✓ Sax to mouth, not mouth to sax ... adjust neckstrap to bring the horn to correct position
- ✓ Sit up straight, head up, not sideways ... twist mouthpiece to bring head to correct position

OBOE

- ✓ Reed placed between lips which are slightly rolled in over the teeth
- ✓ Lips close around the reed, no leaks
- ✓ Lips firm, do not pinch, allow the reed to vibrate
- ✓ Tip of the tongue touches reed when tonguing
- ✓ Roll left index finger down to create a good half-hole

BASSOON

- ✓ Lips are pushed forward, not rolled over teeth
- ✓ Do not pinch!
- ✓ Allow lower jaw to recede, upper teeth forward-overbite position
- ✓ Sit upright, bring bassoon to mouth
- ✓ Use a strap that works best for you ... seat strap or neck strap
- ✓ Roll left index finger down to create a good half-hole