



Band Virtual Learning

# 6th Grade Woodwinds

May 18th, 2020



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Lesson: May 18th, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

The students will learn some basic information on how they can take care of and clean their instruments.

## Caring for Woodwind Instruments (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Sax)

- When placing your instrument back into its case, make sure it fits all the correct indentations. Do not force your case closed, as it most likely means the instrument isn't properly placed.
- Remove neck straps from your instrument before putting it in its case.
- Always use a tenon plug when storing your saxophone.

- Only pick your instrument up by the bore, never lift by the keys. Also be careful not to bend keys while assembling your instrument.
- Avoid eating, drinking sugary liquids or chewing gum immediately prior to playing your instrument.
- Internal moisture can cause cracks or mildew. Always pull a clean, dry swab through your instrument to remove any moisture prior to storage.

- Gently wipe key pads of moisture prior to storage.
- Apply a very limited amount of cork grease to cork joints when needed by rubbing a small dab of grease into the cork.
- Never store the reed on the mouthpiece, store in a reed holder. Replace chipped, cracked or softened reeds.

- Clean mouthpieces (ligature and reed removed) in warm, soapy water and dry completely before storing.
- Periodically check key mechanisms for loose screws. If a key feels loose, tighten the pivot screw only until the key no longer ‘wobbles.’
- Oil keys every 12 months with manufacturer’s key oil. Apply a single drop to the end of a needle pin. Take care not to apply too much oil.



## Caring for Brass Instruments (Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, Tuba)

- When placing your instrument back into its case, make sure it fits all the correct indentations. Do not force your case closed, as it most likely means the instrument isn't properly placed.
- Make sure your instrument is completely dry prior to placing it in your case. Drain water after playing and wipe your instrument dry with a clean, soft cloth.

- Yearly professional cleaning is recommended for brass instruments to avoid costly repairs and possible corrosion
- Avoid eating, drinking sugary liquids or chewing gum immediately prior to playing your instrument.
- Always remove your mouthpiece after playing. Regularly clean your mouthpiece with warm water and mild soap.
- If your mouthpiece is dry, apply a thin layer of valve oil to the bore to keep it from getting stuck.



- If your mouthpiece does get stuck, use a designated mouthpiece puller to remove it. Never forcefully twist your mouthpiece.
- Bare brass sticks together when left unmoved for long periods of time. Take time to move all possible parts at least every couple of weeks.
- Regularly oil horn key valves (3x per week) by placing a drop or two to bearings and rotors. Work the valve a couple of time to ensure oil is spread evenly.

- Unscrew trumpet valves, wipe clean, and place a drop of valve oil, coating the entire valve. Apply oil to valve cap and bottom cap.
- Apply slide oil to your trombone at least once a week by placing hand slide into third position and adding oil to each slide.
- Use lanolin or similar oil to lubricate tuning slides.
- Never try to hammer out dents at home, take your instrument to a licensed professional.



Links to additional resources that have great ideas on cleaning and maintaining your instruments:

[Instrument Care](#)

[Woodwind Instrument](#)

[Brass Instrument](#)