



## 2020-2021 Guidelines for Woodwind Players (Clarinet, Saxophone)

Dear students and parents:

Here are the expectations we have in regards to the equipment woodwind players should use. This is intended specifically for reed players.

### **Reeds:**

Clarinets and Saxophones require a working reed in good shape in order for the student to make an appropriate sound on the instrument. To put it simply, a student cannot play his/her instrument unless he/she has a good working reed. One reed should last about three to four weeks. It should be replaced at least monthly. However, a reed will need to be replaced if it is chipped, cracked, stained, etc. Reeds are extremely brittle and can be broken by dropping it, dragging it across a surface, biting it, etc. It can also be ruined if you are eating or drinking while playing the instrument, or without rinsing your mouth first. Students should always have at least two or three reeds at all times. It is a good idea to keep a box of reeds in your case. If a student does not have a working reed, this is the same as not having his/her instrument and results in loss of daily participation points, because he/she cannot play with the class. The following brands and sizes are recommended for various grade levels:

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Van Doren, size 2 ½ or 3

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Van Doren, size 3 or 3 ½

Reeds are always available for purchase at school, however it is cheaper to buy them by the box from Paige's directly.

Current Reed Prices for one reed purchased at school are:

Clarinet: \$2.25

Bass Clarinet: \$4.25

Alto Sax: \$2.75

Tenor Sax: \$4.00

Bari Sax: \$7.25

### **Mouthpiece and Ligature:**

If you rented your instrument from Paige's, then it came with the appropriate equipment needed for band. If you purchased your own instrument, then it probably came with a standard student model mouthpiece and ligature. These are fine for beginners, but better models should be acquired soon. Please keep the mouthpiece clean. Always take the reed off before putting the mouthpiece in your case. If the mouthpiece gets chipped, it will need replaced. The ligature is the black strap with one screw, or round metal part with two screws, that holds the reed on the mouthpiece. If this gets bent out of shape, it will not let the reed properly vibrate and cause a different sound. These can be easily replaced if lost, broken, or damaged. We require that reed players have a Rovner style ligature. We also require that students get at least an intermediate quality mouthpiece by high school as well (Vandoren or Hite for Clarinet, and Selmer C\* for Saxophones).

All of these items can be purchased through Paige's, the music company we work with. You can purchase these over the phone (800-382-1099) or online ([www.PaigesMusic.com](http://www.PaigesMusic.com)), and they will be delivered to school for free. Order forms may also be found at each school for this purpose. You can also purchase them from a dealer of your choice.

This recommended and required equipment is only for the success and improvement of our students and our band program. Students can only fully succeed when using the best equipment possible, and the band program can only fully succeed when all players are using the same proper equipment. Though some of these items are expensive at first, it is well worth the impact it will make on your musical talent. If it is taken care of properly it will also last well through your years here at Triton Central.

I hope this answers some questions you might have with your instruments. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Thank you for your help with improving our program!

- Mr. Shepherd

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