

Instrument Care and Maintenance

Treat your instrument with care and respect, and it will serve you well! Here's how:

Brass

Required accessories: Valve oil (trumpet, baritone, tuba); rotor oil (horn); slide grease (trumpet, baritone, tuba, horn); slide cream, Slide-o-mix or Trombotine and a small spray bottle of water (trombone)

Daily: Empty water from slides frequently while playing and right before putting the instrument away to avoid build-up inside the instrument. Wipe off the instrument after playing and keep it in its case when not in use.

Other: Beginners will bring their instruments to Ms. Sweeney when valves or slides are starting to stick. Intermediate, Concert, and Jazz Band members should oil valves when valve mechanisms are starting to stick. Tuning slides should be able to move freely; if they get stuck, wipe them off and apply a small amount of valve oil or slide grease. Trombone players should use slide cream to keep their slide moving freely, and also should lightly spray the slide with water occasionally to keep the slide moving.

Woodwinds

Required accessories: Swab, preferably cotton (all), cork grease (clarinet)

Daily: Swab instrument after each use to maintain the pads and avoid cracking wooden instruments. Keep the instrument in the case when not in use. Avoid leaving the instrument in extremely hot or cold environments.

Other: Apply cork grease to joint and mouthpiece corks regularly (clarinet).

NO GUM may be consumed during band class. The sugar and other substances in gum cause erosion and buildup within the instrument, resulting in costly repairs from the parent(s)/guardian(s). It is also suggested to brush your teeth or at least rinse your mouth if you play immediately after eating.

If you suspect something isn't working right with your instrument, PLEASE inform Ms. Sweeney. It is better to catch issues early rather than play on a broken instrument.