



# Yorktown High School Double Reeds Survival Sheet

*No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in the band program based on the quality/brand of their instrument. Achievement is enhanced when students perform on quality instruments and understand how to properly care for their instruments. The intent of this document is to serve as a guide for parents and students as they navigate the many options that are available for aspiring musicians who seek to upgrade their instruments and/or purchase the necessary materials to perform required routine maintenance on their instrument.*

- **All Musicians Should Own a Metronome and a Tuner.**
- **It is better to buy a quality, used professional instrument than a new beginner/intermediate instrument. Many new instruments will never play in tune, and no amount of practice or hard work will help you make such an instrument sound good.**
- **Quality mouthpieces/reeds have a profound impact on the quality of your sound. Do not underestimate the value of a quality mouthpiece/reed!**
- **Routine maintenance can prevent the majority of reasons you would need to send an instrument to the repair shop. Clean instruments = Happy/working musicians.**

## Oboe

Instrument Recommendation (We recommend buying a quality, used professional instrument)

- Fox Renard Model 330 Intermediate Oboe (~ \$3500)
- Fox Model 400 Professional Oboe (~ \$6,500)
- A plastic top joint can help prevent problems with adjustments.

## Accessories

- Oboe Reed Case (~ \$12)
- Oboe Stand (~ \$10)
- Swab (Double end wool, cloth, or feather) - All work, principal concern is that the entire inside of the instrument can be dried. (~ \$6 - \$10)

## Maintenance

- Take the instrument apart in the reverse order of assembly. Be careful of the bridge keys.
- Clean upper and lower joint and bell with swab - put protective caps over corks before putting parts into case.
- Dry inside of connecting joints with soft cloth/chamois.
- Blow moisture out of the reed and place it in a reed case so it can dry properly.
- You can clean the reed by inserting a wet pipe cleaner or feather through the cork-end once a week. Do not reverse direction or you will damage the reed.
- Avoid storing your wooden oboe near any direct heat source. Store it some place which is humidified. Do not put a Dampit inside the bore of your instrument. You can lay one alongside the joints of your instrument.

## **Bassoon**

Instrument Recommendation (We recommend buying a quality, used professional instrument)

- Fox Renard Model 222 Bassoon (~ \$5,500)
- Fox Renard Model 220 Bassoon (~ \$7,000)

## **Bocal**

- Fox C (~ \$200)

## **Accessories**

- Fox Seat Strap (~ \$12)
- Fox Reed Case (~ \$16)
- Fox Bassoon Stand (~ \$65)
- Swab
  - Pair of wool swabs to fit large and small section of instrument. (~ \$15) Be careful that the wire which mounts the wool does not scratch the bore of the instrument. Soft cloth jackets for the swabs are available to reduce this possibility.
  - Cleaning Rod and piece of soft lint-free cotton.
  - Cloth and drop cord. (~ \$16)
- Bocal Brush (~ \$12)
- Polish Cloth (~ \$4)

## **Maintenance**

- Take apart the instrument in the reverse order of assembly. Shake moisture out of joints.
- Shake moisture out of bocal from both ends. Blow through it from the large end and the bocal button. Small end of bocal may be cleaned with a pipe cleaner if moisture remains.
- Tenor joint: For cloth and drop-cord, drop weight from the small end. For cleaning rod and cloth, drop rod into joint from the top. For wool swabs, insert from the large end of joint.
- Butt joint: For cloth and drop-cord, drop weight from the small end. For cleaning rod and cloth, drop rod into joint from the top. For wool swabs, insert from the large end of joint.
- Long Joint and Bell: Clean with larger of two wool swabs, or cleaning rod/cloth or cloth and drop cord in same manner as the tenor joint.
- Tone Holes: especially first tone hole on the tenor joint - blow the air out, or use a pipe cleaner.
- Use soft cloth/chamois to wipe the outside of wood and keys clean and remove fingerprints.
- You can clean the reed by inserting a wet pipe cleaner or feather through the cork-end once a week. Do not reverse direction or you will damage the reed.