



September 16, 2019

Dear Beginning Woodwind Parents,

We had a good first week introducing your children how to play their flutes, oboes, clarinets and saxophones! Everyone produced a sound and learned how to put their instruments together!

Playing an instrument takes time and effort so every little bit of practice at home will go a long way to getting to know how to produce a sound and start playing music. Here are some tips on how to practice in the beginning stages including how to use the book for valuable online resources.

Start with the mouthpiece first

- Flutes: Start with the head joint and practice getting a sound. Look in the mirror to make sure the air is lined up with the hole.
- Clarinets and Saxophones: Take out the reed and place it in your mouth to moisten it. Put your reed on the mouthpiece taking care to line it up correctly and tighten the ligature. Practice getting a sound.
- Oboes: Take the reed out and put in a small cup of water to soak it for several minutes. Practice getting a sound with the reed only.

Assemble instrument - Assemble the instrument carefully and hold the instrument with fingers in proper position. Blow through the entire instrument to produce a sound.

Cleaning the instrument - After playing, take your instrument apart and swab through each section with your cleaning cloth. Each instrument has its own cleaning set-up. Make sure your student has the proper cleaning tools; these can be purchased online or from a music store. More information about what the students need to furnish and a list of local stores can be found in the ALF Instrumental Music Student Handbook.

<https://alflintridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Student-Handbook-2019-2020-REV3.pdf>

Music Book *Essential Elements for Band* - Students will receive their new books this week. The first pages are filled with important information about each instrument that we hope you can review with your child. Please bring the book to every class.

Interactive Online Resource - Each book comes with a Student Activation Code on the first page that is unique for each student. Please help your student log on and create an account. The website information is located on the very last inside page of the book. There are great resources including videos of how to play the instrument, how to set it up, how to clean it and other tips. The music and audio for every song can be accessed so students can hear it, play along with it and even record it! There are other resources to help reinforce concepts and help with note reading and rhythms. We want every child to take advantage of these resources!

Have fun with your children while they learn how to play their new instruments!

Best,

Ruth Kasckow
Beginning Woodwind Instructor