BASICS IN CLARINET MAINTENANCE

Supplies:

• **Cotton swab** – handkerchief type is preferred. If student uses a "stock" swab-be careful to remind the ease of which that type of swab can become lodged in instrument in one is not careful.

Material used for clarinet swabs:

Brushed felt-typically included in student models Chamois-typically included in student models Silk-excellent choice.

- **Mouthpiece brush**-make sure it is appropriate for a mouthpiece.
- Q-Tips
- Painter's or Artist Brush
- Cork Grease
- "Cigarette" Paper-for younger students...they will not be able to purchase. Hand out 2 or 3 sheets to each student. Tissue paper may also work.
- Kev Oil
- Jeweler's screwdriver
- Key Oil
- Bore oil-wood clarinets only!

Daily Maintenance: (Students should)

- *During assembly of the clarinet:* Make sure the tenon corks are lightly greased; wipe off any excessive grease. When assembling the joints, hold the clarinet at a point where no keys will bend. The brand logos should be in a line; this will align the bore to the proper specifications.
- *Warming up*: To prevent cracks, never blow into a cold wood instrument let the clarinet warm up to room temperature before use.
- Between use: Always use a clarinet stand to prevent stress to the clarinet's body. Never lean the clarinet up against anything. Never lay the clarinet on its side. Use caution to where you keep your clarinet stand.
- Cooling down: Using a soft swab, wipe out the bore. Pads that collect water can be wiped dry, with a non-gummed (French brand) cigarette rolling paper. To prevent tarnish, gently wipe your fingerprints off the instrument with a soft cloth. Always put the clarinet into its case when not in use.

Once a month:

Oiling the keys: Instrument should be free of dust; otherwise small particles could flow into the hinge rod along with the oil, causing slow key action and wear. Only one small drop of oil is needed. Wipe off any excess oil from the body and keys. Oil should be used at each point where the key hinge end meets the post.

Visual Checks: Corks, pads, tenon rings, springs, screws, and body on instrument.