

# Lincoln

band · choir · orchestra

## Rockford, Illinois

A letter from the band teacher, Mr. Mikulay:

Dear Beginning Clarinet and Saxophone Students and Parents,

I am very excited about the sounds we are going to be making on our instruments. As we continue to learn more notes and songs on our instruments, I would like to take a moment and share some tips on how to keep your instrument in top working condition.

Just like a regular oil change is necessary to keep your car running smoothly, we also must perform regular maintenance on our instrument. There are a few instrument supplies for your student's instrument to use in-class that they put in their mouth and are consumables. Although I wish I could provide these items for you, I cannot. I can however provide you affordable and quality products to make your shopping easier and accurate the first time! Please take a moment to look at what supplies your student will need to perform at their best.

### **WHAT SUPPLIES YOU NEED:**

- **Clarinet** - Vandoren B-flat Clarinet Reeds (Strength #2)
  - Rico, Rico Royal, or La Voz are NOT RECOMMENDED!
  - The difference in price does not match the difference in quality of lifespan of the reed. You will end up needing a new reed more often and spending more in the long run.
  - Buy only Vandoren reeds. They are in a dark blue box.
  - Consider buying a box since we will probably go through one or two reeds a week for the first few months.
  
- **Alto Saxophone** - Vandoren Alto Saxophone Reeds (Strength #2)
  - Rico, Rico Royal, or La Voz are NOT RECOMMENDED!
  - The difference in price does not match the difference in quality and lifespan of the reed. You will end up needing a new reed more often and spending more in the long run.
  - Buy only Vandoren reeds. They are in a dark blue box.
  - Consider buying a box since we will probably go through one or two reeds a week for the first few months.

### **WHERE DO WE GO TO GET THESE REEDS?** - *Just a few suggestions.*

- **Guzzardo's Performance Music** - Local music shop in Rockford
  - 3010 Charles Street - Rockford, IL 61108
  - Directly across the street from East High School.

- **Music & Arts** - Online retailer - [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)
  - Convenient shipping directly to your home.
- **Woodwind & Brasswind** - Online retailer - [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)
  - Convenient shipping directly to your home.

### HOW MANY REEDS DO I NEED?

- Mr. Mikulay insists on one reed for each day of the week.
- You should have a Monday reed, a Tuesday Reed, a Wednesday reed, etc.
- It is a better value in the long run to buy a box of reeds than it is to buy a single reed at a time.

### WHY DO WE NEED THESE REEDS?

- Reeds are necessary to make a sound on the clarinet and saxophone. No reed = no sound.
- They are a consumable product and the life of the reed is determined by how well you take care of it. No one else can use that reed... only you.
- A reed that is chipped or broken will not work, squeak a lot, sound bad, and not be very fun.
- Your reed should be able to last one or two weeks if you take care of it and put it away safely after practicing.
- Mr. Mikulay cannot afford to purchase reeds for you to use. Don't fall behind the class... get a box of reeds and make sure you have one for each day of the week!
- Buy only Vandoren reeds. Prices vary from music shop to music shop so taking a moment to shop around for the best deal may be worth it.



If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email me at: [steve.mikulay@rps205.com](mailto:steve.mikulay@rps205.com)