



REEDS!!!

Reeds. A necessary part of any clarinet or saxophone player's existence. The reed makes the sound, and the sound is THE most important aspect of playing. Every student should have at least 4 working (i.e. great condition!) reeds at all times. Reeds are like clothes and should be rotated each day. They also wear out over time. That being said, here are a few helpful hints when keeping your student's reed guard well stocked!

1. Know what your child needs. Beginners are playing on Vandoren Traditional reeds in a $2 \frac{1}{2}$ strength. Advanced students should also be playing on Vandoren reeds, but strengths range from $2 \frac{1}{2}$ to $3 \frac{1}{2}$. If you are unsure what strength to order, check with your child's director before purchasing an incorrect box. Again, reeds are like clothes and must fit the player!
2. DO NOT PURCHASE ANY BRANDS OTHER THAN VANDOREN "TRADITIONAL" (blue box). Not only are these reeds the best on the market, it's super important to have everyone in the section on the same equipment. This DOES affect the sound of the ensemble.
3. Buy in bulk when possible. When purchasing reeds, it's more cost effective to purchase a couple of boxes at a time. That way, you can keep one at home and one in your child's case. You'll also save on shipping (if applicable) when buying more than one box at a time.

4. How often should you purchase reeds? It varies! We have taught everyone how to keep their reeds safe, but sometimes they break or just get tired. Everyone is different, but individual reeds usually last about 2-3 weeks if they are rotated properly. One box can easily last over a month.
5. When will my child change reed strengths? It varies! I will have that conversation with individuals as they are ready to change to a harder strength. The number on the reed refers to the thickness of the cut. A higher number is a denser reed, which helps to support a more advanced player. However, everyone is different! If you have questions, just ask. :) When ordering reeds online, be sure and select the correct strength in the drop-down menu!
6. Shop around. I have included my favorite sources below!

WOODWIND/BRASSWIND - www.wwbw.com

Clarinet: <http://bit.ly/2fsl1Rh>

Alto Sax: <http://bit.ly/2fxUOQh>

PROWINDS - www.prowinds.com (Best prices as of 11/7/16!)

Clarinet: [https://www.prowinds.com/product/CR103/Bb Clarinet Reeds](https://www.prowinds.com/product/CR103/Bb_Clarinet_Reeds)

Alto Sax: [https://www.prowinds.com/product/SR213/Vandoren Reeds](https://www.prowinds.com/product/SR213/Vandoren_Reeds)

AMAZON - www.amazon.com

Clarinet: <http://amzn.to/2fhfT27>

Alto Sax: <http://amzn.to/2efEWFy>

You can always visit your local music store as well! You just often find slightly better prices when ordering online.

Williamson/Music 1st - <http://www.wm1st.com/> (Located in downtown Frisco)
6807 Main St., Frisco, TX 75034

Brook Mays - <http://www.brookmays.com/> (Multiple locations, one in Plano)
6921 Independence Pkwy, #120, Plano, TX 75023

Music & Arts - <http://www.musicarts.com/> (Located near Stonebriar Mall)
3211 Preston Rd. #14, Frisco, TX 75034

As always, if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Thank you for helping to outfit your child with everything they need to be successful!

Sincerely,
Kristin Hames