INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Prepared by Sean Randel, Instrumental Repair Technician
Approved by Joan Ashcraft, Director Fine and Performing Arts/OMA

I. Brass Instruments *(access to water is necessary and changed every 5 instruments)*

- **Instruments that are functioning well and look clean on the inside** will be sprayed down with Vindicator Plus and wiped down.
- Mouthpieces will be cleaned in a soap and water solution and brushed out.
- The lead pipe of the instrument will be brushed out as well with the same soapy solution using a vinyl coated cleaning snake.
- **Instruments that appear to be dirty on the inside** will be disassembled completely and thoroughly cleaned in a soap and water solution.
- Mouthpieces will be cleaned in soap and water solution.
- All inside pipes will be brushed out with a vinyl coated cleaning snake. *(Most instruments will fit in a portable tub at the site.)*
- **Instruments with parts frozen together** will come into the shop for disassembly as we have specialized tools to take apart the instruments without damaging them. Calcium buildup can be stronger than the lead solder that holds the instruments together.
- If a site has too many of this type of instrument, they will be tagged for repair later in the year. There is limited space in the shop.
- **Larger instruments** such as tubas will come into the shop for cleaning. *(We do not have a portable tank.)*
- NOTE: Brass instruments should be cleaned every year in the shop.

II. Woodwinds

- **Instruments that appear clean** will be sprayed and wiped down with the district approved chemical Vindicator Plus.
- Swabs will be run through the bore of the instrument with the same solution.
- With applicator strips, Music tech pad juice will be used to clean the pads. Once dry, we will make sure they are functioning correctly and make regulation adjustments if needed.
- **Instruments that are dirty and have frayed pads** will need to be disassembled, ultrasonically cleaned, keys polished, and pads replaced. This is done in the shop and is a lengthy procedure. *(Flutes and clarinets take up to three hours, saxophones and larger harmony instruments take up to eight or more hours.)*
- If there is a surplus of these instruments, we will tag them for repair in the future due to lack of space in the shop.
III. Orchestral Instruments and Guitars

- Instruments will be sprayed down with Vindicator Plus spray then wiped down immediately so the solution does not cause the glue to collapse.
- **If extremely dirty** we may use a degreasing solution to clean off grime and rosin.
- After the instrument is dry, a high-quality polish will be used to protect the varnish and oil applied to the non-finished ebony or rosewood.
- We will check for open seams, cracks or other problems and make notes for repair. This repair is done in the shop if found.
- Bow hair should be cleaned with an alcohol solution and combed out so it dries correctly.

IV. Percussion (pianos, electronic instruments included)

- Instruments will be sprayed and wiped down with Vindicator Plus spray.
- Assessment will be made if drumheads, cords on xylophones and other keyboard instruments need replacement.
- Pianos and other electronic instruments will be cleaned with spray and wiped down.

V. Instruments in Cases

- If instruments are in cases, they will be sprayed and wiped down with Vindicator Plus spray.
- Hopefully we will have access to an air compressor so we can also blow the insides of the cases out as they can get very dirty.

Logistics:

- Instrumental/choral teachers assigned to each school will be able to help when this process starts so Instrumental Repair Technicians can also go over inventory with them at the site.
- We hope to have access to some other personnel help in this process and the use of District vehicles.
- Musical inventory will be shared with Central Administration and Facilities to understand the scope of what needs to be accomplished before school begins.