

OBOE REED HANDOUT

Reed Info: Students are required to bring 3 working reeds to school every day. Three reeds should last about a month. I recommend that parents keep a stash at home of back up reeds. This way parents can monitor when it is time to get more.

- Handmade reeds are highly recommended
 - They can be a little more expensive, but they are more consistent and easier to play.
 - I carry handmade reeds at school made by Nik Flickinger for \$15 each
 - My stock is limited, but I replenish once a month
 - If you want me to reserve some for you, let me know & I'll increase my monthly order
 - You can also get great quality handmade reeds from Weber Reeds (see Music Store List for contact info)
- Store bought factory reeds can be purchased at any music store
 - They are a little cheaper, but the quality is overall significantly lower
 - I recommend Medium/Soft to start out on and eventually move to Medium
 - I only recommend store bought/factory made reeds to very beginner students as they learn the delicacy of reeds
 - As soon as your student learns to care for their reeds, (after a few weeks of paying) I recommend moving to handmade. They will find playing is much easier & more satisfying overall.

Reed Care: Reeds should be stored in a reed case that holds at least 3 reeds.

These can be purchased at any music store.

Students will need to soak their reeds in water. (not by sucking on the reed in their mouth)

- They will need a reed water cup
 - A small plastic cup about the size of a film canister
 - I recommend keeping one at home & I have a place to store one at school
 - Reed cups do not need to be anything fancy & you may be able to find something around the house that will suffice
- Reeds need to be soaked for about a minute before playing to be properly soaked
 - Do not soak reeds for long periods of time
 - Your reed can get water logged and "die" or have a shorter life

WARNING: Reeds are VERY delicate and expensive. It is important to care for your reeds properly. They will last longer and you will enjoy playing the oboe much more.