

JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC KEYS TO SUCCESS IN BAND AND ORCHESTRA

- ♪ **Make sure the equipment works!** Having broken equipment really slows down the learning process. Even if you are doing everything correctly, your instrument may produce the wrong sound (or no sound at all). If you think your instrument is not working properly, please show it to Ms. Woo or Mr. Garnreiter right away. They can either try to fix it or help to pinpoint the problem to tell a repair professional. A list of vendors that offer repair services is included in the Instrumental Music Handbook.
- ♪ **Use a music stand at home.** Having your own music stand at home is really helpful for practicing. If you practice hunched over looking at your music on a flat desk or table top, you either cut off the air going through your instrument, or you bow isn't moving as full as it could, and you will not get the best tone possible. Using a music stand at home promotes good posture and makes it easier to get a better sound on your instrument. You can get a collapsible music stand from a music supply store. A list of vendors is included in the Instrumental Music Handbook.
- ♪ **Have a set practice schedule.** Practicing is a really important part of this class. To help you establish a regular routine, Practice Reports are due every Friday. It could be really easy to put off practicing until all your other school work is done. But, then you could be too tired, or it could get too late to be doing a loud activity, or you could have any number of other "convenient" reasons not to practice that day. It can be really easy to procrastinate, but you can't "cram" for music - it won't work! Band and Orchestra are like sports activities and you have to train to stay in shape. Also remember, Ms. Woo and Mr. Garnreiter will be checking to make sure all the instruments go home every day!
- ♪ **Consider taking private lessons.** Getting extra tutoring on your instrument is very helpful. It can accelerate the learning process by quite a bit. It gives you the extra one-on-one time with someone who is a professional performer on your instrument! It could also open up a lot of outside performance opportunities like recitals, and can help you prepare for important auditions, such as the SCSBOA All-Southern Honor groups, the CBDA All-State Jr. High Honor Band or Orchestra, the Kiwanis Solo Competition, and your placement audition at Santa Monica High School.
- ♪ **Come in and ask for help!** Ms. Woo and Mr. Garnreiter are available to help most days during lunch and after school. Check with us to make sure we are on hand when you need us.