Instrument Tuning Guide
Oboe/ English Horn

Basic Tuning Rules
1. Warm up using long tones before tuning.
2. Always use sufficient air support and play at a mezzo forte dynamic level.
3. Do not use vibrato or try to manipulate the tuning note—play it straight.
4. Before completing the worksheet, tune to the pitches shown below. Adjust the reed if the pitch is flat or sharp.

Your Tuning Notes

![Oboe and English Horn Tuning Notes]

Your Tuning Mechanism

DO NOT MOVE THE REED. Oboe tuning is dependent on a properly adjusted reed (shaving/cutting) and playing with a good embouchure. It is possible on the English horn to use bocals of slightly different lengths to raise or lower the pitch, but having a well-formed embouchure and good reed is the preferred method.

How to Adjust a Pitch While Playing

- Flat: increase amount of reed in mouth, increase embouchure pressure.
- Sharp: decrease amount of reed in mouth, decrease embouchure pressure.
- Alternate fingerings

Common “Out of Tune” Notes

![Oboe and English Horn Adjusted Notes]

*Lines connecting notes indicate pitch tendencies within that range*
Pitch Tendency Worksheet
Oboe & English Horn

Name__________________________ Today’s Date______ Due Date______
Ensemble________________________ Grade______________
Instrument Make and Model______________________________________

* Keep this in your Band Binders. (Do not throw away) You will need it next year in band.

Directions

Step 1: Tune your instrument carefully using the Pitch Tendency Guide on the previous page.
Step 2: Close your eyes before playing each note below. Hold it until the pitch is steady.
Step 3: Open your eyes. Do not adjust the pitch! Write down the pitch tendency on the chart below

*Write how many cents sharp (+) or flat (-) you were on each note. Example: -10 or +10

Chromatic Scale

Pitch Tendencies using “Terraced Dynamics”

Practical Application 1: Intonation, Temperament, Pitch Tenancies