

REEDS FOR SMOOTH SAILING

We all know that a band director has very little time during the day to focus on things outside of the immediate task at hand – teaching music, so the ask, “I pledge to rotate” could sound like a lot of work.

It can be done with one simple appointment. Appoint one of your clarinet or saxophone students as the **Reed Captain** for the semester or the year.

The responsibility of the Reed Captain is to make sure every clarinetist or saxophonist is on the right reed of the rotation sequence. If you use our system of one reed for Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the other for Tuesday and Thursday, all the Reed Captain has to do is quickly announce that this is a Monday so use your Monday reed. And, as your students improve, you can expand to a four-reed rotation for Monday through Thursday. It’s a simple plan with huge benefits for the performance and health of your students.

The advantages of this system are not only musical and health (the reed rotation itself), but now you’re engaging in peer learning and promoting peer leadership which are very important as your young musicians eventually become leaders in your high school band and in their community.

