

## **Middle School Clarinet Day: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What age students are appropriate for Middle School Clarinet Day?**

A: Middle School Clarinet Day is appropriate for beginner students through the third or fourth year of playing. Students of any age who meet this qualification are welcome to attend. We call this Middle School Clarinet Day because most of these players are in middle school.

If you are older or younger than middle school age, you are welcome to attend on the condition that any student who attends needs to be able to focus and participate in three, 50-minute sessions. Students will have a 10-minute break between sessions to rest and recharge, and the sessions are designed to keep students active and engaged.

### **Q: What will the activities be like?**

A: During the three sessions, we will focus on three broad areas of clarinet playing. The first hour will focus on sound and tone production. The second will focus on learning notes, chromatic pitches, and finger technique. The third session will focus on playing alongside UNI university students, focusing on rhythm, intonation, ensemble skills, and instrument care.

The students will be working with Dr. McCandless and will receive individual instruction from UNI students who will serve as tutors for smaller groups of students.

### **Q: I play bass clarinet. Can I attend this event?**

A: Yes!! In fact, the more bass clarinets, the better!! We will have instruction specifically for bass clarinet players.

### **Q: What should I wear to this event? Do we need to dress up?**

A: You should wear whatever is comfortable for you.

### **Q: Will there be a final concert?**

A: Not this year. We will simply have three sessions, after which students will be dismissed.

### **Q: Where is the event being held?**

A: This year, it will be held in Russell Hall. Registration is in the lobby, and the event will be held in Graham Hall, with some break-out work in the ground floor classroom spaces.

**Q: Where do we park for High School Clarinet Choir Day?**

A: You should park in the parking lot next to Russell Hall. Parking is free on Saturdays.

**Q: What should I bring with me?**

A: Your clarinet, reeds (be sure to have a couple of spare reeds), a water bottle, and a pencil.

**Q: Is there music for me to prepare prior to the event?**

A: No, everything we will work on will be learned on the day of the event.

**Q: Will lunch or snacks be provided?**

A: No. Be sure to eat a good breakfast, as the event will end at 1 pm. If you wish to have snacks, you may bring them along, and students may eat snacks during the breaks between sessions.

**Q: I am a parent or teacher who is bringing students to Middle School Clarinet Day. Are there things for me to do while the students are participating in the event?**

A: Yes!! The Cedar Falls Tourism Bureau (<https://www.cedarfallstourism.org/>) and the Experience Waterloo (<https://experiencewaterloo.com/>) have extensive lists of activities and business in the Cedar Valley.

Parents and teachers are also welcome to stay and observe as much of the event as you like. You do not need to register to observe, but we do ask you to wear a name tag so we can identify you as someone associated with our event.

**Q: Will it be difficult?**

A: It might be challenging for students at times. The goal of Middle School Clarinet Day is to teach students new skills and help them further develop the skills they already have. We want students to have fun, but we also want them to improve, which requires trying new things, pushing yourself a bit, and not being afraid of making mistakes. We will help students as much as we can, and if students attend the event with the mindset that they are excited to learn, then it will be a rewarding experience.