



October 3rd, 2016

Dear grade 3 and grade 4 parents/guardians and students,

Now that the order for recorders has been placed, I am excited to say that we will be using recorders regularly in the classroom, as soon as possible. What that means for parents is that your houses are going to be filled with the joyous sounds of your child learning what may be their first instrument. What it means for students is that they will get to own their first instrument and learn to read and play music. If this is your second year with a student on recorder, you are likely already well aware of the ins and outs of recorder education. Here are some tips I would recommend for helping your child through this journey, regardless of where they are:

1. Encourage them to share with you what they learned in class on that day. This is basically the only practice they will need, unless I've instructed otherwise.
2. Encourage your student to not "noodle" which is when they make random squawking noises that are akin to a loon drowning. You know the ones. Tell them that if they want to play, they have to practice what they have been taught in class by Mrs. Jessome. Practice makes permanence, so if they practice wrong, that is what will stick forever.
3. When they squeak, tell them to keep going! It's ok to squeak when you are learning. Some advice you can give them is make sure that their recorder holes are completely covered and make sure they are using light, warm air like they are fogging up a mirror or glass.
4. Be excited for them! Congratulate them! Even though you heard hot crossed buns 100 times already... tell them how you liked how steady they played it this time, or how they didn't squeak at all.

Doing these things will make resilient musicians who are not afraid to try new things! Here are some basic care tips for recorder:

1. It should be washed on a weekly basis with warm soap and water! This can be your student's responsibility. Make it part of the routine on Friday night or Sunday night and you will have a happy healthy student. Recorders can be quite the place for little bugs to grow and cause sickness.
2. Use cork grease on the joints of the recorder if they get squeaky when being pushed together. This will ensure the recorder doesn't break and doesn't wear away and leak air.
3. If your student has been sick and playing recorder, soak the recorder in very hot water with some disinfectant soap for about 15 minutes.

Recorders will be for sale through Glamorgan school for a price of \$7.50. Neck straps are highly recommended for all students, as we will be doing recorder alongside many other instruments and activities, and it makes it easier for them to play! Neck straps will be for sale for \$2.00. All money and recorders can be purchased through Mrs. Jessome before school, after school, or during class. I will inform students when the recorders have arrived and when they should bring in their recorders, or their money.

If at any time you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you

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