



Dear Third Grade Parents (2011-2012),

As a part of the music curriculum for third graders, we are now including a unit that gives the students the opportunity to learn how to play the recorder. It is a good way to reinforce the music reading skills they learned in first and second grade, and playing the recorder gives them a hands-on musical experience. The recorder unit also helps prepare those students who choose to play a band instrument beginning in fourth or fifth grade.

During the past school year, the third graders really enjoyed the experience of learning to play the recorder. We provide recorders for the students to play in class, however, you may want to consider purchasing a recorder for your child to use both in class and at home. Having their own recorders will give the students the opportunity to practice at home and to better develop their recorder playing skills.

Beginners start with a soprano recorder. We recommend wooden recorders for the best tone and quality. Some are quite expensive, but you can buy Hohner 2-piece soprano recorders made of maple or pearwood for between \$20.00 and \$30.00.

Two reputable music companies that handle wooden recorders are:

Musician's Friend

Website: www.musiciansfriend.com

Phone: 1-800-776-5173

Groth Music

Website: www.grothmusic.com

Phone: 1-800-969-4772

If you have any questions about recorders, please leave a message for Michael Matson in Performing Arts, ext. 107.

We look forward to making music with your children!

Sincerely,

Michael Matson