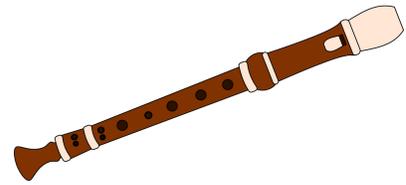


January 3, 2022



Dear Fourth Grade Parent and/or Guardian:

The Recorder is a predecessor to the modern day flute. Many music education curricula throughout the world use this relatively inexpensive instrument to assist with music making as students acquire skills to be able to play an instrument on a regular basis. We will start to use recorders in 4th grade music starting this week, so we thought you should know in advance how this will be set up and what procedures will assure your child's success.

SAFETY

Our first concern will always be for the safety of all of our students. After four, well-funded and extensive scientific studies on aerosols produced by playing instruments, including the recorder, scientists and musicians have concluded that recorder playing is at the end of low risk for students and staff with some precautions. This was published in the National Federation of State High School Associations, and can be accessed online if there is a desire to see the research data. Limits on time of playing when indoors, using outdoor facilities, and making sure students are following safety protocols are ways to continue to maintain a safe environment for everyone and still enjoy music making.

COST

There is no cost to our Allen Park families. The cost of the instrument and textbook are covered through the curricular supplies provided to every student in the school district. Please note, a quality instrument with a case will be given to your student(s) - it is theirs to keep, however they must be responsible and keep the instrument in good playing condition and in their possession until the end of the school year. Replacement cost is \$5, and must be made through the school's music program.

RESPONSIBILITY

The student is responsible for bringing their instrument and textbook to school on the day they have music classes each week. If your student cannot remember their instrument, we will have cleaned, sanitized extra instruments, however they will cost the students full participation points toward their final grade. Students will need to practice at home in between lessons in order to accomplish individual and group goals.

A copy of the text will be available via Google Classroom, as the company provides for copyright clearance.

PRACTICE

When students receive their instrument, there is usually a lot of interest in making sounds (our apologies ahead of time!). The students will be directed on how to make those sounds into music during class, however this is only once a week. Students should play for no more than 10 minutes a day, but consistently a little each day, to help develop skills. This type of practice can be applied to any skill, not just a musical one, once they learn how to schedule and stick to a practice schedule. Students should aim to play about ten minutes either before or after other homework from school each day. At times, we will ask students to track their practice and provide parent acknowledgement of the practice sessions.

PERFORMANCE

In class, we will work on skills of reading notes, rhythms, and understanding how to play music as a group. Your student will be asked, upon occasion, to upload a short video of themselves playing from their Chromebooks. This is a great way for evaluation of their progress.

In May, it is our sincere hope that we will be able to perform for you a demonstration of the students' progress. Details of what, when, how, and where are still being determined. Please know that we will do everything we can to inform parents of this special event so they may attend or if it will be recorded and streamed via Internet video.

It is going to be an exciting year in the elementary music program at Allen Park! We hope you and your students will contact us when you have questions.

CONTACT

E-mail is the best way to reach us since we are at two buildings throughout the week:

Todd Burke
Lindemann (M, Tu, W, F)
Arno (Th)
burket@appublicschools.com

Stephen Cross
Arno (M, Tu)
Bennie (W, Th, F)
cross@appublicschools.com