



All About Recorders!



MPS Music
January, 2021

Create*Perform*Respond*Connect

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be participating in a unit on learning how to play the recorder. The experience of learning to play an instrument can be exciting, fun, and challenging for students. Playing an instrument such as the recorder will not only prepare child for future experiences with musical instruments, but also allow improvement in fine motor and listening skills, discipline and individual responsibility. It provides a space for creativity and musical independence. This letter shares why we

introduce the Recorder to our students, helpful suggestions, and a link to our evolving recorder content. We are committed to making this year a successful and fun experience when it comes to exploring music on the Recorder in a virtual Setting. Thank you for the continual support in your child's music Education!



Why the Recorder?

- ♪ **It is small, portable, affordable through the school,** and often an entry instrument for many developing musicians.
- ♪ The Soprano Recorder is a way for all students to experience playing a pitched instrument in the woodwind family that requires a new set of skills such as breath control, fingering techniques, music-reading, and independent practice. These techniques are a helpful source of **preparation for students who are interested in entering the band, choral, or strings programs.**
- ♪ **To develop a lifelong appreciation of music:** not just as a listener, but to understand that one is capable of also being an active participant- whether in profession, shared with family and friends, or for oneself.

How can I best support my student?

- ♪ **Practice-** is an important aspect of learning any new skill, and students will be excited to take the recorder home to practice. Encourage your child to practice each day. [Click Here for a Website Resource](#)
- ♪ **Location-** Help them find a practice location. Ideally it should be a quiet area where they can concentrate and not disturb anyone else in the household. When the weather is nice, they might enjoy practicing outside!
- ♪ **Patience and Persistence:** For both grown-up and child! It takes time to create a performance. Children must learn where to put their fingers, learn the melody and how it sounds, learn the timing and rhythm, and then they try to put these skills together to create a song. This all takes time, and each part will take the time it needs to ensure the music that is to be performed will sound good. No amount of rushing through parts will help. Lots of patience and time is needed to perform a piece of music.
- ♪ **Encouragement-** If your child is squeaking or blowing too loud then remind them to “breathe through it- don’t blow.” They are learning to control their breath and properly seal their recorder holes with the pads of their fingers.