Basic Technique:

*Hand Position:* Use your left hand at the top and your right hand at the bottom. (don’t forget to keep the thumb of your left hand covering the back hole.)

*Finger Placement:* Cover all the holes with the balls of your fingers—not the tips and not the knuckles.

*Playing Position:* Hold the recorder in front of you at a 45 degree angle with your elbows slightly away from your body. Don’t slouch.

*Lips:* Place the recorder on your bottom lip and lightly rest your top lip on the top of the recorder. No more than the tip of the mouth piece should be in your mouth.

*Tongue and Air:* Start the tone by whispering into the mouthpiece. Use your tongue to separate the notes by gently whispering “tu” or “du” before each note.

*Care:* if your recorder will not play, run it through the top shelf dishwasher or see me.

Help! I’m Squeaking!

*Is your recorder squeaking when you play? Here are a few tips:*

1.     Don't blow so hard! Remember to breathe as if you are fogging up a window or just making the flame of a candle flicker a little.

2.     Make sure you are covering the holes completely with the flat squishy part of your fingers (not the tips). If there is even a tiny opening for the air to escape, it will squeak!

3.     Relax your jaw. The more tightly you squeeze your lips when playing a reed or brass instrument, the higher the pitch. The recorder isn't any different.

4.  Remember: the lower you go, the softer you blow.

Recorder Karate Rubric

*Things to Consider:*

*Correct hand position, Correct fingering, breath control, tonguing, posture, rhythm, pitch,*

*do-overs*

4: Perfect rhythm and notes. Clear sense of steady beat. Tonguing and breath control above grade level skill. Correct hand use.

3: Independently completes song on one or two tries. Clear sense of steady beat. Correct notes and rhythms (no more than 1-3 mistakes). Good breath control. Correct hand use.

2: Needs teacher help to play the song accurately or needs three or more do-overs.  Sense of beat is unsteady—student hesitates often before playing notes or speeds up and slows down throughout the song. Some correct notes and rhythms (more than 3 mistakes). Some squeaking due to incorrect breath control or fingering (especially consistently squeaking the same notes. Incorrect hand use.

1: Takes multiple tries. No sense of steady beat. Few correct notes (the song is unrecognizable). Lots of squeaking due to incorrect breath control or fingering. Incorrect hand use.