



RECORDER KARATE



Dear PRM 4th and 5th grade families:

When we return from winter break, 4th and 5th grade students in the general music classes (Those in class with Ms. Maria, not band and strings students) will begin a unit on recorders. We will be using the Recorder Karate method of learning recorders. Recorder Karate gives students the opportunity to use the skills that they have been learning for years in music class. It is a great precursor to woodwind instruments that students may learn to play as they get older. With the Recorder Karate method, students will practice the recorders during class time and have the option to “Test for Belts”. Similar to regular karate, students will perform a particular skill (or song in this case) for a particular belt. If they get an A or B on the test, they will receive a belt to attach to their recorder. I will provide the music for students to use during school hours. When students are practicing at home, they will need to access the PRM website where all of the music will be uploaded soon. If you do not have access to the internet, please let me know and I can provide a printed packet for your student.

Recorder Karate Belts		
Belt	Piece	Skills- new skills are bolded
1 White	Hot Cross Buns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches & Fingerings GAB • Half note rhythms • Quarter note rhythms • 4/4 time signature
2 Yellow	Gently Sleep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breath Mark
3 Orange	Merrily we Roll Along	
4 Green	It's Raining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches & Fingerings E • Eighth note rhythms
5 Purple	Old MacDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches & Fingerings D • Dotted Half note rhythms • Quarter rest rhythms
6 Blue	When the Saints Go Marching In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches & Fingerings high-C'D' • Whole note rhythms • ties
7 Red	Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches & Fingerings F# • Key Signature
8 Brown	Amazing Grace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dotted quarter note rhythms • single eighth note rhythms • Fermata • 3/4 time signature
9 Black	Ode to Joy	

Getting a Recorder

- **School use-** All students will be provided a recorder for school use at no extra cost. Students can also purchase their own recorders for school use but they must be kept at school and are encouraged to purchase an additional recorder for home use.
- **Home use-** In order to make progress a student needs to practice at home. Families are encouraged to purchase a recorder for use at home. Perhaps this would be a good holiday gift? If you are unable to purchase a recorder, let me know and your student can borrow one from the school.

Buying a recorder-

Recorders can be purchased online or in store for less than \$10. In some places you can get them for as little as \$3. Below are some recommended retailers. We will be using soprano/ C /Baroque Recorders. The best recorders are the ones that have a separate mouthpiece (can break into 2 or 3 pieces). The following are retail location where you can find recorders in the Cincinnati area:

Everybody's Records

6106 Montgomery Rd
 Cincinnati, OH 45213
 513-531-4500
 (They should have them in the next week or so please call them ahead of time)

Sam Ash- Tri-county

11805 Commons Drive
 Springdale, OH 45246-2553
 513-671-4500
 \$6-8

West Music

www.WestMusic.com
 Harmony by West Music \$2.59

Amazon.com

Yamaha YRS24B Soprano Recorder \$9.99
 Yamaha YRS-23Y Soprano Recorder \$7.49
 Angel 111 Angel Soprano Recorder \$6.87

Willis Music -Kenwood

8118 Montgomery Road
 Cincinnati, OH 45236
 (513) 252-0445
 \$5 and up

Buddy Rogers Music- College Hill

1939 W. Galbraith Rd.
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45239
 (513) 931-6780
 \$8

Grading and Belts

Students will continue to get daily grades based on participation (10 pts per day) and will also get test grades (20 points each). Test grades will include written and Belt tests. On the Belt tests students can take as many attempts as they need during the semester to get the grade they would like (2 times per day max).

Testing for belts

Test during Music Class:

- During most class periods, students will have recorder practice time. After I have helped any students that need assistance practicing, I will hear students that are ready to test for recorder belts.

Record Yourself Playing at Home:

- If you feel ready to test for a song, you may choose to record yourself playing that song at home (using a phone, iPad, camera, etc.), and send Ms Maria the video file at kitsinm@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.
- This is a great choice for students who may be shy or nervous.
- Before beginning, say your name, homeroom teacher's name, and the title of the piece you will be playing.
- While playing your recorder song, the camera must be recording your fingers. If I cannot see the fingers in the recording, I will not give a grade.

To earn a belt they must either get an A or B. The following rubric and grading scale will be used for grading

Grading Scale

A	18-20 pts
B	15-17 Pts
C	13-14 pts
D	9-11 pts
F	8 pts or below

Performance Rubric- total of 20 points

	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Fair	1 - Minimal
Rhythm	Student plays the correct rhythms.	Student plays with a few mistakes in rhythms.	Student plays with several mistakes in rhythms.	Student is unsure of many rhythms in the piece.
Tempo	Student keeps a steady tempo.	Student keeps a mostly steady tempo.	Student's tempo is inconsistent.	Student has many stops and starts.
Pitches & Fingerings	Student plays the correct pitches and uses correct fingerings.	Student plays with a few mistakes in pitches and uses correct fingerings.	Student plays with several mistakes in pitches and/or uses some incorrect fingerings.	Student is unsure of many pitches and/or their fingerings in the piece.
Tone Quality	Student has a pleasing tone. He/she does not overblow or squeak.	Student has minimal problems with overblowing and/or squeaking.	Student has inconsistent problems tone quality. Some squeaking occurs.	Student plays with poor tone. Squeaking occurs, which caused by overblowing or not sealing holes completely.
Tonguing (beginning each note with a light "tu")	Student uses tonguing consistently.	Student uses tonguing most of the time.	Student sometimes uses tonguing.	Student does not use tonguing.

Questions or Concerns? Please give me a call or send me an email.

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