Dear Families of Third Grade Students,

As part of the music curriculum in 3rd grade all students learn to play the recorder during music class. Not only does playing recorder further the students’ musicality, but it also helps a child develop finger coordination and breath control. All students will receive two recorders, one to keep at home and one to leave at school. The recorders they will receive have never been played by another student.

I will be using a system called Recorder Karate. Students will earn belts (yarn on their recorder) as they progress.

Please encourage your child to practice. Practicing even just five to ten minutes a few times a week will make a huge difference in the students’ playing. They can also earn stripes on their recorder cases for filling out practice logs. Here are some tips that will help you help your child with his or her playing.

1. Make sure the left hand is on top of the recorder.
2. Students should make sure they are completely covering the holes, not letting air escape.
3. Students should blow air gently and slowly. Too much air that is going through the instrument too fast will cause squeaking.
4. Students should start each note with the tongue touching the tip of the recorder, and should use the tongue to separate notes. Saying “too too” will help students feel the correct placement of the tongue.

Please visit my website, [www.woodvillemusic.weebly.com](http://www.woodvillemusic.weebly.com), for practice videos and extra practice logs.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I look forward to playing recorder with your children.

Samara Schwartz

Woodville Music Teacher

samara.schwartz@wpsk12.org