

Dear 5th Grade Families,

It is an exciting time of year. We are beginning to play our recorders! All music that we work on in class will be available on my website: [www.mrskrum.weebly.com](http://www.mrskrum.weebly.com). All students have placed a label with my website and a QR code in their planner. I will also add some helpful videos in case students would like to review what we've done in class.

It is immensely important that your child practice their recorder 3-4 times a week as homework. Practice time should only be about 10 minutes at a time. It is more important to me that students are *regularly practicing* than how many minutes they are practicing. I've attached a practice log with calendar for students to mark which days they have practiced. More importantly, your student should fill out the log section to tell me *what* they practiced. We will go over this in class. I am only looking for a simple explanation only.

Students practice note reading skills in class (this is what makes recorder difficult for many students). Practice time can include note reading. A game is linked to my website for practice. There are also several apps that are helpful--my favorite is "Flashnote Derby." This is available on the App Store.

Students will not receive a recorder grade until 3rd card marking. However, in class quizzes will begin during 2nd card marking and will be announced in class and on my website. These will include at least 3 playing quizzes and 2 note reading quizzes. This will account for 80% of your student's recorder grade. The remaining 20% of the grade will be preparation for class--bringing their recorder, and turning in the practice log at the end of each month.

Please encourage your child as they begin their first instrumental experience. Encourage them to view practice time as they would any other homework. The only way that he/she will improve is with practice. It's not always fun or pretty, but it will get better!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns,

Musically,

Janice Krum

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