

January 6, 2025

Dear Grade Three Parents:

Grade Three students will begin playing recorders later in January as part of their music program. This letter will provide you with information in order to obtain a recorder for your child. Students will need to have their own recorder which they will use in Grade Three and again in Grade Four at IRIC.

I would like to begin playing recorders in music classes starting the week of January 20.



GETTING A RECORDER:

1) **Buy a recorder through the school (see photo below) - \$6.00.** These recorders come from Themes and Variations, a music supplier in Red Deer. They are good quality recorders that come with a zipper case. **Please go online through your parent portal account to purchase.**

Deadline for ordering and paying for recorders will be Wednesday, January 15.

Students will receive their recorders in Music classes the week of January 20.



2) Borrow a recorder – especially if you have an older sibling or friend who has already played one.

If you already have a recorder, it may be a different color. Size and quality are the most important features: the recorder should be 31 cm long. **Do not buy recorders from Scholastic book orders or from the dollar store. They are of very poor quality and sound.**

If your child is bringing a recorder from home, please send it to school with them by January 17.

All recorders will be engraved with the student's name. Student's names will also be written on the outside of recorder cases.

Students will not be bringing their recorders home to practice until they can make proper sounds and play at least a few songs. It usually takes at least a month or longer of practice in class before students will be allowed to bring their recorders home.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at the school (403) 885-4646 or via e-mail at joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca.

I look forward to making beautiful recorder music soon!

Sincerely,

Ms. J. Holoboff
Music Teacher

WHY DO WE TEACH THE RECORDER?

AS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR INSTRUMENTS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, THERE ARE MANY REASONS WE TEACH THE RECORDER. BELOW ARE JUST A FEW REASONS THE RECORDER IS A FAVOURITE AMONG ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS.

READING AND AURAL SKILLS

Learning an instrument teaches students how to read music and how to hear music. Playing the recorder helps build a student's inner hearing.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINE

By learning an instrument, students learn that practice will improve their skills. They also see that discipline will help them meet their goals.

WORKING AS A TEAM

When performing in an ensemble, students learn that they must work together to make music. This is an opportunity to build their teamwork skills.

SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

As students overcome the challenge of learning a new skill, they build up their confidence and self-esteem.

HAND-EYE COORDINATION

Learning which fingers go with which notes to make the sound they want helps students' help develop this skill. Repetition through practice reinforces the skill.

BUDGET FRIENDLY

There's no denying the affordability of the recorder. The relatively low cost of the instrument lets schools provide many students with an instrument.

