



Dear 4th graders and Parents,

November 2013

We are excited to introduce our “**Recorder Karate**” Incentive program that we will be starting up soon in music class! Here are a few key points to how this program works:

- The Shakopee school district’s 4th grade music curriculum includes learning to play the recorder, an instrument popular during the Renaissance time period. “**Recorder Karate**” is a fun and great incentive program for learning how to play the recorder, step by step!
- As in regular Karate class, students have a chance to earn “belts” (ribbons in our case) for demonstrating certain skills. In order to “pass” and move to the next belt, a student must demonstrate:
 - *correct fingering*
 - *accurate rhythms*
 - *proper posture when playing*
 - *correct breathing technique (breathing vs. blowing)*
- Students will have a chance to earn 9 belts throughout this school year.
 - The 9 belt colors in order are:
white, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, red, brown and black.
 - After students receive a belt, they can tie it on their recorder or binder to display!
- As they progress through the program and belts, the songs become more challenging! Students will learn each song or piece in music class and then be responsible to continue their practicing at home. 5-10 minutes per night is recommended so students don’t fall behind. **An example of the Checklist with songs on it is on the back of this sheet.**
- TESTING for a belt will be done primarily in music class, but there are certain circumstances in which coming in before and after school will be acceptable.
- All music will be taken from the “**Recorder Express**” book students’ purchased.
- In the past students who have had the most success have had **parent involvement**. Please take the time to check your students Recorder Karate **check sheet** which will be taped in the front of their “Recorder Express” book. The music teacher will sign their initials if they have PASSED a belt. Please also encourage **5-10 minutes** of practice each night. Lastly, please **email** and keep in touch with us if you have questions or concerns about your student’s progress. RECORDER playing is a part of their music grade and on their report card.

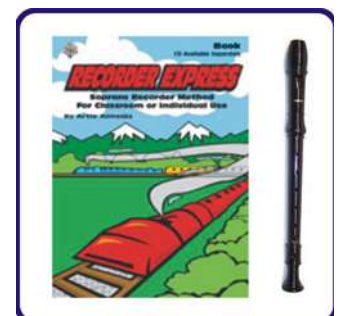


Musically Yours,

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Music Specialists, Jackson Elementary



Recorder Karate Belts Check Sheet
NAME _____

BELT	PASSED (teacher initials)	SONG	COMPOSER	NEW CONCEPTS
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White		Improvisation for 8 beats on C-A		C-A and improvisation on recorder
Yellow		Question/Answer using G-A-B-C-D		G-B-D
Orange		"Hallelujah Chorus" p.12	Handel	Dotted half note Repeat sign
Green		"Jingle Bells" p.14	Traditional	Eighth notes
Blue		"Andante" p.16	Mozart	3/4 Time Signature 2 different pitches on eighth notes 
Purple		"Wayfaring Stranger" p.24	American folk song	Minor key Low E
Red		"Ode to Joy" p.25	Beethoven	Tied rhythms  Dotted quarter note AABA= FORM
Brown		William Tell Overture p.28	Rossini	Eighth notes and single eighth note
Black		Irish Washerwoman p.46	Cultural	6 8 Time Signature

***All music for Recorder Karate is taken from the
"Recorder Express" book by Alfred Publishing Compan*