

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of a new and exciting opportunity for your 4th grader! We will be starting our recorder unit after winter break! This is truly an exciting moment in our music classes, and I can't wait to see how we do!

Each 4th grader will be provided with a recorder by the school. These recorders are to be kept at the school, and they will have the opportunity to practice while in music class. They will also be provided with their own Recorder Karate booklet that contains most of the songs that we will be working on this year. Throughout the year, your child will be given the opportunity to earn karate belts for their recorder as they learn and master new songs. This program allows students to work at the pace that is most appropriate for them.

We believe that adding this recorder component to our music program is extremely exciting and rewarding for the students, and will help to build a musical foundation for even bigger musical goals. The mastery of playing a recorder requires an understanding of deep breathing vs. shallow breathing, an ability to control one's air stream, an ability to read music notes and rhythms, and a fair amount of finger dexterity. These qualities will certainly carry over to many of the musical paths your student may want to pursue in the very near future.

Though students will not need to buy their own recorder, I would like for all students to bring their own two pocket folder used only for music. If you cannot provide a two pocket folder for your child, one will be provided for them. It is required that each student always has their Recorder Karate booklet and their two pocket folder during music. Students are allowed to either keep them in the music room, or they can take them home during the week. If a student chooses to take their booklets home with them, they need to make sure it comes back to school with them when they have music. **If a student does not have their Recorder Karate booklet and folder with them during music, it will negatively affect their daily grade in music.**

Each fourth grader will be graded on a large variety of material throughout the rest of the year. One of the most important and valuable things I will be looking for is whether each student is demonstrating a variety of musicianship skills. Here are the musicianship skills that I will be looking for in each student:

- Coming to class prepared and with all materials
- Being able to practice efficiently with a group and individually
- Only playing when it is appropriate
- Effectively using individual practice time
- Making reasonable progress through the material
- Treating their instrument and other instruments with respect

These are skills that we are constantly working on in class, but if a student is unable to demonstrate these skills, it will negatively affect their grade. These are skills that are necessary to master in order to be successful in the field of music, as well as any other field. Students will also be given periodical quizzes, tests, and they will be graded on whether they have made reasonable progress individually through the Recorder Karate program. **If you would like more information on how your child will be graded, please go to the M.O.E. Music Website as mentioned below, and a detailed copy of how students are graded will be included in each student's Recorder Karate booklet.**

Your child will not have to buy their own recorder, but it may benefit them greatly if you invest in one for your child. Below, I have left several websites and store locations that are nearby that sell recorders if you are interested.

I will also be posting lots of recorder resources to the M.O.E. Music website that you can access to better help your child succeed. There you will find the grading policy in detail, extra songs to practice, fingering charts, practicing tips, and any other additional information.

Thank you for your support in your child's music education! If you have any questions, my contact information is attached.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Emily Maggard

Places to purchase recorders

Amazon.com (prices range from \$2.50 and up)
Wwbw.com (prices range from \$2.99 and up. Free shipping)
Westmusic.com (prices range from \$1.95 and up)
Willis Music inside the Eastgate Mall (prices unknown)
4601 Eastgate Blvd, Cincinnati, OH 45245

Contact Information

Emily.maggard@wb.k12.oh.us

(937) 444-2528 ext. 23146

HOW TO ACCESS THE MOE MUSIC PAGE:

Go to: <http://www.wb.k12.oh.us/>
Click on "Mt. Orab Elementary"
Click on "Grade Level Pages"
Click on "Music", then "4th Grade"