



# Recorder Handbook

For Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students



*The 4<sup>th</sup> grade recorder unit is underway!*

Students will need to **bring their recorder, green folder and recorder book** to school on days they have music class: Cycle **Days 2, 4 & 5**

**CONCERT: April 23, 6:30pm**, STMA Middle School West Auditorium

## **Practice Makes Perfect BETTER!**

*You can help your child get the most out of this experience by encouraging good practice habits. When students begin playing the recorder, you can help with the following:*

1. **Encourage daily routine practice in short periods** rather than once or twice a week for longer periods. 10 minutes per day is best to see adequate progress.
2. **Provide a quiet, well-lit area, free from distractions.** If possible, provide a music stand or some other means of support for the music book to encourage good posture.
3. **Monitor the amount and quality of time your child spends practicing, then sign/initial and return their weekly practice bug.** Encourage and reward them when they demonstrate responsibility for carrying out their assignments and practice schedule. Monitor the quality of their practice time too, and particularly praise and encourage persistence and effort on difficult songs. If, after hearing them practice, you get a sense that they are struggling or “stuck” in their progress, feel free to contact Ms. Padden. She will be happy to set up a time to assist your child to work through any roadblocks to their success.
4. Help your child **make the most of practice time** by:
  - a. Encouraging them to **work on the things that are challenging first** rather than just playing the “easy” things over and over.
  - b. Listening to them practice and giving them feedback when they make a beautiful tone, demonstrate good breathing, use gentle blowing, and light tonguing “too” or “doo” before each note. **If the recorder squeaks, remind them to check that their fingers are completely covering the holes and they are whispering “doo” into their recorder.**  
*\*Even the smallest space on the finger hole can cause a high-pitched squeak.*
  - c. Encouraging perseverance and patience! Taking small breaks can help if your child is frustrated or discouraged. Take a look at the FAB 5 practice techniques below for help.

Please contact me if you have questions:

[jpadden@stmcaholicsschool.org](mailto:jpadden@stmcaholicsschool.org), 763-497-3887 ext. 104

♪ Ms. Padden



# Recorder Karate!



Turn in signed practice bug with at least  
**5 practice days** *and* at least

**60 minutes** *(more if needed)* by each due date below

*\*All songs are found in the "Recorder Express" recorder book*

Belt Color	Bug Due Date	Songs	Page	Pitches
<b>White</b> <i>Practice Pages 2-7</i> <i>At least 5 days &amp; 60 minutes</i>	<b>Feb. 10</b>	Au clair de lune	5	B, A, G
		Hot Cross Buns	5	
<b>Yellow</b> <i>Practice Pages 8-10</i> <i>At least 5 days &amp; 60 minutes</i>	<b>Feb. 20</b>	All Aboard	9	B, A, G <i>(Eighth notes)</i>
		Down at the Station	9	
<b>Light Blue</b> <i>Practice Pages 11-12</i> <i>At least 5 days &amp; 60 minutes</i>	<b>March 2</b>	Juba	11	B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup>
		The Grand Old Duke of York	12	
<b>Orange</b> <i>Practice Pages 12-21</i> <i>At least 5 days &amp; 60 minutes</i>	<b>March 18</b>	Harmonious Buns	13	B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup> , D <sup>1</sup>
		When the Saints Go Marching	16	
		Complete Theory Express	21	
<b>Concert</b> <i>(multi-colored)</i>	<b>April 21</b>	To Be Determined... <b>CONCERT ON APRIL 23</b> 6:30pm STMA Middle School West		
<b>Light Green</b> <i>Practice Pages 22-24</i> <i>At least 60 minutes</i>	<b>May 5</b>	Chinese Song	23	E, B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup>
		Tiptoe!	24	
<b>Dark Green</b> <i>Practice Pages 25-29</i> <i>At least 60 minutes</i>	<b>May 15</b>	Theme From Beethoven	25	D, E, B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup> , D <sup>1</sup>
		Amazing Grace	28	
<b>Composition</b> <i>(tie-dyed)</i> <i>In class and at home work</i>	<b>May 18</b>	<i>Create your own recorder piece and print on computer during class</i>		
<b>Purple</b> <i>Practice Pages 30-32</i> <i>At least 60 minutes</i>	<i>Optional</i>	Yankee Doodle (F#)	31	D, E, F# B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup>
		Home On the Range	31	
<b>Dark Blue</b> <i>Practice Page 33</i> <i>At least 60 minutes</i>	<i>Optional</i>	Merrily We Roll Along	33	C, D, E, G,
		Shortnin' Bread	33	
<b>Black</b> <i>Practice Pages 34-38</i> <i>At least 60 minutes</i>	<i>Optional</i>	Lucy Locket	34	C, D, E, F, B, A, G, C <sup>1</sup> , D <sup>1</sup>
		Take Me Out to the Ball Game	36	
		Puff the Magic Dragon	37	



# Student Recorder Reminders



## At Home Practice

- ♪ Find a place and time to practice that is the same **each day** (at least 6 minutes a day).  
*Make sure it isn't disruptive to others in your family.*
  - ♪ Record at-home practice minutes on your practice bug. You can also count minutes that you *silently* practice "fingering" each piece (whispering "doo" in the air before each note).
  - ♪ Remember to bring your recorder to school on days you have music (**Days 2, 4, and 5**).  
**\* It's a good idea to put your recorder and folder/book in your backpack after you practice.**
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## **The FAB FIVE**

1. **Left hand on top**, right hand on the bottom.
2. **Completely cover the holes**. If you hear a high-pitched *squeak* sound, check that holes are **fully** covered – especially the thumb on the back. Play with the biggerpads of your fingers – not the very tips of your fingers. Think "flat fingers" – don't curve your knuckles.
3. **Whisper softly with a light "doo"** before each note. The tongue should lightly touch behind your teeth. Imagine blowing a slow bubble.  
**Less is More:** **Less** air makes a **more** beautiful sound.
4. **Keep the air going**. Try not to create spaces or breathe between each note. Keep air going and interrupt the air stream with a "doo" for each note.
5. **Keep trying**: Don't give up when things get hard or you don't get it right away. It will take practice and persistent effort before you master each skill. If you feel you've work a long time at something and it still isn't working, see Ms. Padden for extra help.

*Bonus Tip:*

Practice the **hardest part first**. Skip over the easy parts for faster improvement.

*Most of all: **Have fun!** Enjoy hearing yourself get better and better!*

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## **Are You Ready for Your Belt Test?**

*\* Play your piece for a parent or friend and check off the below statements before testing\**

**Can You...**

**Play correct note names and fingerings with left hand on top?**

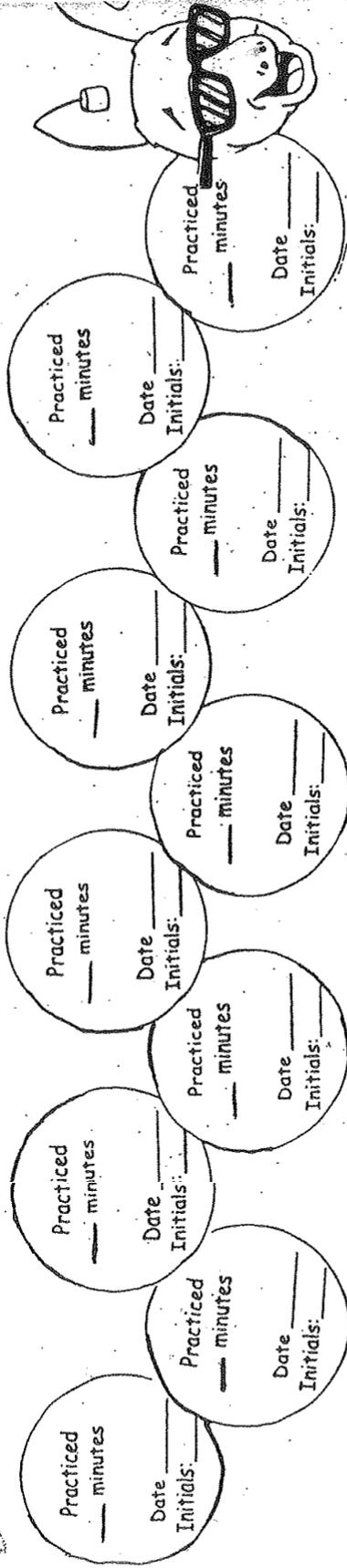
**Play rhythm correctly without stopping at least 3 times in a row?**

**Play with gentle tone, tonguing "doo" before each note?**

*If you answered yes to each and turned in your practice bug, you're ready for your belt test!*

# Practice Bug

## At least 5 days and 60 Minutes



Practiced \_\_\_\_\_ minutes  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

This "Practice Bug" was completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class 4

Parent/Adult signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed \_\_\_\_\_ Total minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE TESTING RUBRIC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Class: 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### Recorder Belt Performance Rubric

**COLOR BELT:** \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Performed with...</i>	<b>Proficient</b> Accurately perform	<b>Not Yet</b> Needs more practice
<b>Left Hand on Top</b> Correct <b>Notes &amp; Fingering</b>		
Correct <b>Rhythm</b> & <b>Steady Beat</b> (played smoothly without slowing or stopping)		
Soft, <b>Gentle Tone</b> & <b>Tonguing:</b> <i>Notes begin with whisper "doo." Finger holes are completely covered.</i>		
<i>Practice Bug complete With 5 days and 60-100 minutes</i>	<i>Complete, signed and turned in with at least 5 days and 60 minutes</i>	<i>Needs to be complete and/or signed</i>

I did well at: \_\_\_\_\_

Something will continue to work on: \_\_\_\_\_

*You are "Proficient" in all areas and earned your belt!*

*Continue to work on the "Not Yet" areas and practice for "Proficiency" and re-do your pieces for Ms. Padden until you are proficient.*