



TO: ALL 3RD GRADE PARENTS
FROM: Mr. Benjamin, Music Teacher

Happy new school year! This year, the 3rd grade music students will be learning to play the recorder. Not many realize that the recorder was THE main instrument used by musicians during the Renaissance Period (1400s). Yes, before instruments such as the flute, clarinet, sax, trumpet, and tuba were even invented, the recorder was King! Playing the recorder is an important step in learning to play an instrument in an ensemble and will help prepare students for joining band in 4th grade.

Next week your child will receive a recorder and a lesson book for class and performance use. He/she is to bring this recorder to class each week. The book does not need to come to school and should stay at home for practice. **The cost for the recorder is \$6.00 and the cost of the lesson book is \$9.00, for a total of \$15.00.** If your child already has a recorder (Baroque, not German), then all you need to do is pay for the book. **Please send in your payment for the recorder and book by next week** when your child comes to music class. You can pay with a check made out to BFCCPS with your child's name written on the check. I would prefer not to deal in cash, as it cannot be replaced when a student loses it, so please pay by check.

Please encourage your recorder student to **practice** at home at least **10 minutes a day** as part of their homework routine. **Parental support** is essential when establishing good practice habits. Each week, you should hear your child's progress as he/she practices. I recommend that students keep their recorders in their backpacks and, after a home practice session, return them to their backpacks. This will ensure that the recorder comes in with your child for each music class. Again, the book does not need to come to school and should remain at home for practice.

If you have any question, please contact me at the email address below. I look forward to working with your children this year and helping them become music makers.

Musically,
Mr. Benjamin
Director of Fine and Performing Arts
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