Teaching Recorders and Loving it!!
Joyce Holoboff, 2019

Resource used in this session: The Recorder Resource Kit
Student book and musicplayonline.com

Student book package includes CD (and download code) the recorder and the book for $10 - tax and shipping is included when 10+ are ordered.

Starting Jan. 1, 2019, order $500 of recorder packages and Themes includes a 3 month subscription to musicplayonline.com

Why the recorder?
• Economical
• Feels like a “real” instrument
• Can be combined with so many other classroom instruments
• Plays in the same range as elementary singing voices
• Great instrument for enhancing note and rhythm reading

• The Number One, Most Important Rule (the only rule, really) If you play before I say, I’ll take your instrument away.

• These two big things are crucial to success:
  Air - the birthday candle trick (DON’T blow it out)
  The 3 F’s - Flat, Firm Fingers

• Teach tonguing (and listening as a happy by-product) from Day One (read rhythm flashcards whispering ta ta ti-ti ta or read rhythm from Just B)

• Left hand on top - Always and forever! Use a hand stamp; get a class helper for this job

If you use this warmup every day, kids will know why left hand has to be at the top of the recorder.
It’s online at musicplayonline.com as the first song of the recorder unit.

• Song #1, 3, 6, 9, 17

• When can we take our recorders home? (because “Never” is not an option - LOL!)
  Wait until at least after Song # 8
  The ONLY place to put the recorder when it’s not in the Music Room
  Tie taking home with the Introduction to Recorder Karate
  Backpack Rule
• The dreaded, forgotten recorder
  Playing them in other locations around the school
- **Things to know beyond BAG**
  Adding the Right Hand means LESS air

- **Opportunities for creation and improvisation**
  - as you introduce new notes, go around the class and have kids improvise a pattern on the new note, and have the kids echo.
  - when they have two notes, have them improvise on the 2 notes, and kids echo
    - teacher model 1st!

- **Recorder “Martial Arts” or Recorder Karate**
  6 Levels:  *(Can cut down to 4 or 5 belts to make it even easier)*
  - White Belt - Hot Cross Buns
  - Yellow Belt - Doggie Doggie
  - Orange Belt - Skin and Bones
  - Green Belt - My Paddle
  - Blue Belt - Hush Little Baby
  - Black Belt - Ode to Joy or Jingle Bells

- **Different Belt Ideas**
  paper belts around the music room

- **Performance/ Assembly ideas**

- **Adaptations**
  - For Down Syndrome children, fill a tub of unpitched instruments, and have the child play along on unpitched.
  - adaptive recorders are available *(Extrasensory Devices, Menlo Park, CA)*
  - Music Staff Player App for Special Needs by Timothy Purdum

- **Second year and beyond recorder playing - how to keep it fresh**
  Recorder Kit 2, moves into 2 part soprano with optional alto. *(Student package is also available for Kit 2)*

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Big BAG Recorder - gives lots of songs in different styles using just BAG for kids who get “stuck”
Jazz Cats Recorder - fun pieces with opportunities to improvise, starting with BAG
Blues Cats Recorder - variety of Blues styles in these easy pieces, with places to improvise
Spirituals and Favorite Folk Songs are duet books - make booklets for kids who are far ahead of the class
Buy Disney Recorder Books from a music store and put in the school library for kids to sign out.