

August 2009

Dear Parents,

This year your child will be learning how to play the recorder during fourth grade music classes at Trinity. Many schools give recorder instruction because it introduces students to the basic concepts necessary to play more advanced instruments. Since band lessons typically begin in fifth grade, this year is a great time for students to be introduced to note names, note values, rhythms, dynamics, breath support, and all the other elements of music making used when playing an instrument.

As a parent, it is important for you to encourage your child to develop a regular practice routine. I suggest encouraging your child to practice for about 10 minutes a day 3 or 4 days per week. A practice location free from distractions is necessary to allow total concentration for playing the recorder. Please use positive reinforcement to encourage your child whenever possible, even if you find it difficult to sense progress is being made in your child's playing abilities.

Recorders and books are provided free of charge by Trinity Lutheran School. We only ask that the instruments and books are returned at the end of the year in the same condition in which they were issued. Should your child wish to purchase a recorder or book to keep at the end of the year, the cost is \$3.00 per recorder and \$3.00 per book. If any of these items are misplaced or damaged, these fees will also be assessed. Replacement cost for the recorder bag only is \$1.25.

If you have any questions regarding your child's music instruction, please feel free to contact me at home (208-3863), school (458-8248), or via e-mail ([heinlein@trinitysheboygan.org](mailto:heinlein@trinitysheboygan.org)). I look forward to working with your child this year.

In Christ,

Brian Heinlein  
Music Teacher