

## Music Making at KES



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am eager to relate the newest lesson in the 3rd grade music room. The students are excited about learning a new instrument, the recorder. I want to encourage their enthusiasm by providing a positive and supportive environment for them. The most important thing that you can do for them is to encourage their practice at home. In order for them to improve their skills, they need to practice.

At this beginning level, consistency is the key. It is better to play for 5 minutes a day rather than a half an hour once a week. If possible, be a positive part of your child's practice time. Sit with your child while he or she plays and request that they show you what they are learning. Consider learning to play the instrument with your child! Ask them to be your teacher. Encourage other family members to applaud their efforts. Positive attention is a great motivator on their way to success.

Remember, when learning anything new there will be peaks and valleys. There may be times of disinterest or frustration. Remind your child that time and effort will bring forth success. Music is a life long gift; the music learning taking place now, will last a lifetime.

Practicing regularly is the only way to improve as a player. Practicing does not necessarily mean just playing songs. Reading the notes of the song without playing the instrument is a form of practicing. Understanding music notation at times can be the greatest challenge. Practice SLOWLY. Practice parts of a song. I encourage the students to practice the parts of the song that are challenging to them. Repeated practicing of two notes or one line in a song that is new to them is valuable. Practicing a song they already know will not help them grow as much. Practicing promotes their growth as musicians. Playing songs they know is fun and prepares them for performances.

This year you will be receiving a report card for Music. Assessments, both written and performance-based will be given. Recorder playing is one part of these assessments. Music assessments using classroom instruments and your child's own singing will be part of the overall report. Instrument technique, vocal technique, music literacy, elements of music, along with work habits and social skills will be reported on. A copy of the report card is available upon request.

On our website, I will be posting what we are working on in the music room. You may go to [www.rollingpebbles.com](http://www.rollingpebbles.com) to find the music and more information about music making and the recorder. You are your child's most valuable audience, and your attitude toward their efforts will go a long way in their growth as a musician.

Sincerely,  
Tony Michaud  
KES Music Teacher