



SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Fifth Grade Students and Families,

As a part of the fifth grade music curriculum, students will learn how music is applied to learning and performing on an instrument, the recorder. Up to this point, students have learned about musical concepts throughout their time in kindergarten to fourth grade. These skills will be applied to learning and mastering a new instrument, as well as introducing new concepts that apply specifically to performance, as well as instrumental music.

The fifth grade recorder class is designed to give students a preview of their options in sixth grade, where they will choose between choir and band to fulfill their music class. Recorder class will give students a feel for how to interpret written music into a sound. We will learn about music notation, air control, finger dexterity and tone quality; all things that may be new concepts at first, but will set up the student for a successful year in sixth grade band, if the student chooses.

As part of the class, a few materials are required. Firstly, a good quality instrument is essential to the success of any student. Recorders are instruments, and it is easy to be confused about the quality of such an instrument when they are marketed as inexpensive toys in some cases. There are a range of options to choose from, but my recommended brands are Suzuki, Peripole, or Yamaha. In addition to the recorder, we will work daily from the music book *Essential Elements for Recorder*. I recommend Palen Music Center for your recorder and method book needs, as they have a partnership with Springfield Catholic Schools, and are certain to have good quality instruments that will help your child experience success. However, any comparable music store with the correct books and instruments is acceptable. It is **not** necessary to have recorders or books on the first day! A folder and a pencil will need to be brought to recorder class; the folder will keep sheet music and other handouts in one place, and the pencil will be used to write in the book, or directly on the music if needed. Please bring a pencil, not a pen, to recorder class; pencil will erase easily.

I look forward to working with the fifth grade classes in the Springfield Catholic Schools! Please contact me if any questions arise about this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel Pace, Director of Bands Springfield Catholic Schools

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