



Mustangs News

Learning to Play the Recorder

By: Derrick Williams/Music Teacher

The fourth grade at St. Stephen has been learning to play the recorder during music class this year. After practicing all semester, they finally had a chance to show off their skills at the school Christmas concert.



Fourth Graders preparing for their performance.

The recorder is a very direct instrument; unlike most others, the sound comes not from the vibration of any other material (like a string in a guitar or a reed in a saxophone) but from the constriction of the breath. It is, basically, a whistle, and changing the path of the air by covering up holes in the body of the recorder changes the notes. That makes for an easy instrument to play but also a strange one. Because there's no modulation of the player's breath, it requires a lot



Concentrating on their performance.

of concentration to keep the tone steady. If you're nervous it comes through, laughing it comes through, you have to be pretty focused. One of the things kids learn in life is to do things they don't like. Exposing them to new things is very important so they can learn what they like and don't like.



Fun Fact: The recorder is a type of flute.

I am so proud of our 4th graders' Christmas performance in singing and playing. Through practice, they are learning the meaning of, *You get out what you put in.*

MISSION STATEMENT: St. Stephen Catholic School is devoted to inspiring students to achieve their full academic potential while demonstrating a desire to continue Jesus' mission by applying Catholic morals, beliefs, values and practices in their everyday lives. We are committed to motivating students to sustain a lifelong love of learning.



Consider a Catholic Education

Prospective Parents of children who will be in Pre K and Kindergarten in the 2019-20 school year are invited to visit our classrooms on Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Call to schedule your visit to a Pre K or Kindergarten classroom. Times available are 9am or 10am

If you are interested in other grades, please call for availability and personal tour.

Call or email Nicki Gallagher at ngallagher@sscsf1.org or 813-741-9203



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