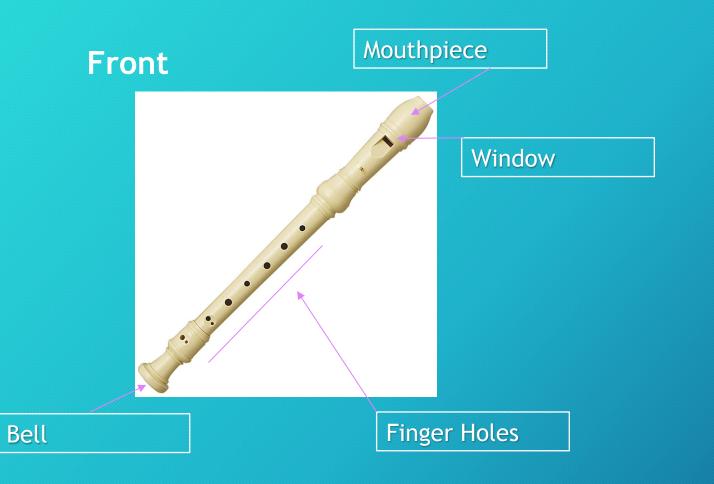# Recorders

Why do recorders

- Rich history and literature
- Access
- Teach a lot about control of muscles and breath
- Students enjoy success
- They may be the only instrument kids get to play
- Musical independence

Parts of a recorder

Front

Mouthpiece

Window

Bell

Finger Holes

Setting up the recorder

- Recorder Yoga
  - Give the right hand a high five
  - Put the bell of your recorder in your right hand
  - Left hand goes up in the air – give the left hand a high five
  - Thumb goes on the thumb hole
  - Fingers go down – one, two, three – NO PINKY

- Rest position
- Playing position

What to do with your Right Hand

- Have the kids put it in their laps
  - Pro: it's easy to scan the classroom and see everyone is the same, and it's one less hand the kids have to work with – they don't need it right away
  - Con: it's harder to get right hand started once you need it, kids will come up weird ways to hold recorder no matter what
- Have the right hand cover, like clarinet and flute
  - Pro: it's the proper way to hold the recorder, and it makes it easier to start the right hand
  - Con: kids will cover holes with their fingers, and it's harder for them to start with two hands on the recorder

Warnings

- In my class:
  - One time = mistake
  - Second time recorder goes away

- You have to decide what you want to do, and then be consistent

First notes

- G then A then B (I find something easier about picking up my fingers)
- Introduce G first and practice on that
- Then introduce A
  - Play A
  - Practice moving from A to G
- Then introduce B
  - Play B
  - Practice moving from B to A to G and back up

- Gentle breath
  - Play like you're telling a secret

- Strong fingers

My suggestions

- Only do 10-15 mins of recorder a day
- Don't let them mess around, you can give the recorder back, but make sure you stick to what you say and take them away
- Allow kids to play together for first couple of assessments

First songs

- Teach the rhythm first
- Then find the notes
- Then finger the notes
- Then play the notes measure by measure
- Then line by line
- Then the whole song