

**Attention: Music Supplies for Kindergarten, 1st Graders, and 2nd Graders
Students need a Tonette or Conn Song Flute NOT a recorder**

Who:

Kindergarten, incoming 1st Graders, some 2nd Graders.

What:

A Tonette or Conn Song Flute is a smaller flute approximately only 4 to 6 inches in size. This should be the instrument that you buy for your child at the K level and **continue** to use until 2nd grade.

Where Can I Get One:

You can find these instruments for \$4 - \$8 at the following music stores:

Horn Doctor (located just down the street off 10th and Ingra)

Music Man (located in Midtown Anchorage on Tudor between C St. & Minnesota)

Why: ... This is the *most* important info on this memo!

- 1) It is smaller for smaller hands.
- 2) It is less likely to be overblown and less likely to “screech” by mistake
- 3) It is easier to play.
- 4) There are “volcano” or “bumpy” holes that are easier to feel for younger students.
- 5) It has a mellow and pleasing tone quality.
- 6) Students that start on a Tonette play more musically later because of the above.
- 7) Students that start on a Tonette have greater success overall with wind instruments. Even in 6th grade Band: Sax, Clarinet, & Flute.
- 8) Success: **really this is the number one reason.** The Tonette is a good starting instrument and students are capable of succeeding both in technique and in musicality. We want students to be *able* to play. The Tonette is adapted in the above ways that allow our younger students to read music & play with a good sound quality.

Please note that 6) & 7) are based on my personal observation. I have had the honor a privilege over the past 12 years to be present during Band classes although I do not teach this class. I have noticed that students that continue to play wind instruments that started with me in K learn material more readily, play more musically, and progress farther in their textbook than students that begin wind instrument instruction later. Tonette / Recorder instruction is this education in the Wind Instrument program.

A Tonette

