

Private Lesson Teacher Suggestions

Students at ANY SKILL LEVEL of playing on their instrument are highly encouraged to take private lessons.

Contact private lesson teachers for their rate on 30 min, 45 min, or hour weekly lessons.

Instrument	Lesson Teacher	Contact Info
Flute	Sinclair Roechner	Phone: 779-225-2800 Email: sroechnermusic@gmail.com
Flute	Yanni Ovalle	Phone: 815-600-9627 Email: ovalle.yanni01@gmail.com
Oboe / Bassoon	Annette McCammon	Email: annettemccammon@gmail.com
Clarinet / Bass Clarinet	Alexis Sujka	Email: asujka@min201.org or asujkamusic@gmail.com
Saxophone (Alto / Ten / Bari)	Joe Duffy	Phone: 815-301-8650 Email: joeduffy56@gmail.com
Trumpet / Horn Trombone / Baritone	Don Stinson	Phone: 815-919-8990 Email: donstinson83@mac.com
Trombone / Baritone / Tuba	Thomas Domagala	Phone: 815-409-9723 Email: tom.j.domagala@gmail.com
Percussion	Kevin McCammon	Email: kmccammon@plano88.org

Why should my child take private lessons if they already are in band class at school?

Learning to play a musical instrument can be more of a daunting task than a child (or parent) may expect. Fingers, tongue, breathing, posture, note reading, and counting all come into play with this foreign object put into a child's hands.

1. Working with a private teacher can help a student keep up with peers in the group setting.

Every child learns at a different pace. Because of the many aspects of performing an instrument, children will progress differently. For instance, a child may have no trouble at all properly placing his/her hands on the instrument and quickly becoming dexterous, but may find it impossible to form the proper embouchure (position of the mouth on the instrument's mouthpiece). There are many subtleties to embouchure formation, and if a student doesn't get help from a private instructor, the wrong

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embouchure could become a roadblock to other facets of playing (such as note range) in the near future.

2. Private lessons help to minimize frustration. I believe the less frustration the better when it comes to learning; who doesn't? Though frustration can create determination in some people, it can discourage others. It's sad to see a child give up learning an instrument in the early stages when all that was needed was a little personal attention. Every child deserves the opportunity to enjoy and not be frustrated with making music.

3. Private lessons set up the child for success. With a private instructor, a child refines more quickly the fundamentals of playing. A solid foundation is built, and the child can keep learning, playing and succeeding. Succeeding is fun! The young musician builds confidence, and doesn't give up.

4. The child learns how to practice. A young musician needs to learn HOW to practice. I often spend more time with a student on practice skills than anything else in a lesson; and not only with beginners, but advanced students as well. A student spends more time weekly alone in a practice room (or at home) with the instrument than he/she does with a private instructor each week, so that time needs to be well spent. By sending the student home weekly with the proper practice skills, the private instructor can help the student get the most out of practice time alone. Also, the student will not dread practice time, because he/she will have control over it and confidently expect results.

5. It is easier to stay motivated with the help of a private instructor. I find this benefit most applicable to students who have been performing more than a few years. Once out of the beginner stage of playing, a music student may not know what to do next. A private instructor is knowledgeable about different music literature and styles and can help the student discover what new music to learn, what goal to pursue next. The instructor can direct a student to certain recordings, because listening is so vital to becoming a good and motivated performer. Sometimes all a student needs in order to remain stimulated is someone to report to on a regular basis. It is always easier to work for something when you know someone is counting on you and that you're accountable to someone – your teacher.

Private lessons are for anyone, not just music-career bound musicians.

A private instructor can maximize a young musician's opportunity for musical success and fun.

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1. Private lesson teachers model a professional sound on their instrument. If the only sounds students here are the kids sitting next to them in band, they don't have the right kind of sound to aspire to. How do babies learn to talk? By listening to people talk. How do instrumentalists learn to play with a characteristic sound? By hearing a characteristic sound.

2. Students are able to perform by themselves weekly and get concentrated feedback. In band students only perform along a few times each week and feedback is usually limited to 10-15 seconds. Performing weekly for a teacher helps them become a more confident and independent player. They also have more time to give feedback, try again and continue to work on a problem until it improves because it is an individual setting.

3. Students are able to focus on supplemental exercises written specifically for their instrument. Band class just doesn't allow for the development of instrument specific exercises-lip slurs, register studies, octave slurs etc. in a way that private lessons can. These fundamentals are crucial for later development and more advanced playing ability.

4. Auditions/solo music can be approached on an individual level. Lesson teachers, experts on solos for their instruments, are able to offer students a number of solos that are ideal for their development level. They can also choose solos that work on goals for that student such as focusing on objectives such as extending range, improving articulation, or extreme key signatures. Giving students more options means they are more likely to find a solo that personally fits them and that they enjoy playing. Teachers can meet a child where they are to begin auditions. This helps students learn how to set goals – long term and weekly goals.

6. Private lesson teachers provide a role model for students that can be a strong motivation for students to continue in band and excel on an individual level. While students move through different classes, grade levels and schools, it is possible they would have the same lesson teacher for 7 or more years. Lesson teachers often know how well a student plays better than anyone else and have a long term plan for their development. Private teachers can guide a student all the way from the first sounds in beginner band through a professional level solo as a senior in high school and know how to get them from one point to the next.