

Private Lesson General Information Sheet

How can my student benefit from private lessons?

Private lessons are also a tool that should be utilized by all. The Allen Band Program is a very large program. Due to the large numbers and the quality of teaching within the district, it is also highly competitive. For a student who strives to continue improving and competing (both within his/her band program and out-of-district at contests), lessons are a step towards achieving that goal. Additionally, private lessons allow a student to address and improve on weaknesses within his/her playing, and supplements band class materials with advanced exercises and etudes that are individually appropriate. Lessons also offer much needed help for a student who is struggling either on his/her instrument or with musical concepts, because they allow more one-on-one time with a teacher who is a specialist on that instrument.

How can I feel confident that my student is getting a good teacher?

Mr. Boening coordinates the private lesson program for Allen ISD. He, in conjunction with the Allen band directors, has worked to recruit and approve highly qualified musicians in each of the instrument areas to be the private lesson staff at Allen ISD. At the end of each school year, the private lesson staff is evaluated. Changes are made, if necessary, to ensure that your student is getting quality instruction. We want to feel confident in recommending a teacher for you, and this allows us to be confident.

How does my student sign up for lessons?

The first step to signing up for lessons is to contact your student's band director and ask that director to recommend a lesson teacher. Your director can recommend private lesson teachers that would fit your student's needs and personality best. Once the director has recommended a teacher, you need to call that teacher and tell him/her that you would like to sign your student up for private lessons. You and the teacher will determine the time, day, location, etc. The list of private lesson teachers posted on the Curtis Web page (<http://allenmsbands.com/curtis/>)

When and where will my student take his/her lesson?

Time and location of lessons are decided by you and the teacher depending on his/her schedule. We have private lesson teachers that come to the different campuses and teach during the school day, we have teachers that only teach afterschool, and we have teachers that teach out of their homes. As stated before, when you call the teacher to let him/her know that your student is interested in lessons, that is when time and location will be determined.

How much do private lessons cost?

Private lessons cost \$15.00 per lesson. Lessons are 25 to 30 minutes in length. If the lesson is an afterschool lesson, then it is 30 minutes. If the lesson occurs during the school day, it is typically 25 minutes (1/2 a class period). The cost of lessons did increase this year, but that decision was made so that Allen ISD could stay competitive with the surrounding districts.

When do I need to sign my student up for lessons?

You may sign your student up for lessons at any time of the year. However, at the beginning of the school year, most private lesson teachers set their schedule for the year. To ensure that you get a spot, we encourage students to sign up within the first two weeks of school.