

Harpool Middle School Band

Private Lesson FAQ's

What are the benefits of taking Private Lessons?

- Private Lessons are vital to a student's musical growth.
- There is no substitute for spending time every week with a professional player on your instrument.
- The music and performance demands of high school band make having a private teacher invaluable.
- Students who participate in All-Region and All-City auditions and Solo & Ensemble Contest will have more success studying privately.
- College scholarships and potential career opportunities are possibilities for students who spend time in lessons.
- Students enrolled in lessons will have greater opportunity for advancement to higher caliber ensembles within the HMS band program.

Are Private Lessons required?

- Currently, Private Lessons are not an official requirement of the HMS band program. HOWEVER, it is STRONGLY recommended that students take advantage of this opportunity.
- Also, keep in mind that students who study privately will progress at a much faster rate, and will receive a greater amount of enjoyment from the band program.

What is the cost of Private Lessons?

- Lessons for the HMS band program will be set at a rate of \$18.00 for a 23 minute lesson for the 2015-2016 school year.

How do I make payment arrangements for lessons?

- A specific method of payment should be agreed upon between the parent/student and teacher prior to the first lesson. Many teachers prefer payment a month in advance, while others may request other arrangements. Teachers will keep a log of payments for each lesson taught and issue receipts accordingly.
- PLEASE, be sure to stay current with your lesson payments! Remember that, for many teachers, this is their primary business and it is only fair that they receive timely compensation for their services. Personal checks are generally preferred. Please do not expect change for lessons paid in cash. Failure to stay current with lesson payments may result in late fees, temporary suspension of lessons, and/or forwarding to a collection agency in extreme cases in which payments are 6 weeks or more past due.

What if my finances may not allow me to take lessons every week?

- It may be possible to have “buddy” lessons with another student. You will be able to split the time and cost if available.
- Other options may be discussed with the band director on a case-by case basis.

Who will be teaching lessons?

- An experienced staff of professional performers and music educators will make-up the Denton ISD private lesson staff. Teachers undergo an interview/audition process, background check, and are evaluated by the band directors within Denton ISD. Only those teachers that meet the highest professional and personal standards are approved to teach lessons in Denton ISD.

When do lessons take place?

- Lessons will take place weekly in most cases and may be taught during band class, the students advisory period, or before or after school as arranged by the student and teacher. Most lessons will take place at HMS. Some teachers may choose to teach out of a studio or music store. Generally, students who sign-up early will receive priority in scheduling lesson times.

Are there any other requirements once I’m enrolled in lessons?

- Yes, there may be specific materials that your teacher may ask you to purchase at some point, such as a particular method book, mouthpiece, reed or stick/mallet. These materials are minimal and normally not cost prohibitive. Your teacher will notify you in advance of any additional materials they may feel would help you be more successful on your instrument. Any specific questions about your instrument or equipment should be directed to your lesson teacher.
- Attendance policies will be at the discretion of each private teacher. It is expected that students will notify their teacher at least 24 hrs. in advance if they will miss a lesson or need to reschedule. Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) may result in suspension of lessons. Excused absences may be made-up solely at the teacher’s discretion.

Please contact a director if you have any questions regarding your child’s involvement in Private Lessons. Thank you!

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