



Faubion Band

# Private Lessons FAQ's

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## **Who takes private lessons?**

Each student in the Faubion Band has the opportunity to study privately with a professional musician in our private lessons program. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students.

## **Why should we enroll in private lessons?**

Enrollment in private lessons is the most significant predictor of a student's success in music. While not mandatory, the individual attention available through private instruction provides tremendous enhancement of your child's skills, motivation, and musical enjoyment.

## **Don't we already get rigorous and stimulating instruction in our band classes?**

Yes! However, while the instruction provided in the group lessons of the Faubion Band classes can lift a student to a high level of musical competency, there is no substitute for the individualized instruction that is only available through private study. The individual nature of private lessons means that instruction is catered directly to your child's ability level, and supplementary materials are provided to expand on the full class curriculum. Students enrolled in lessons are able to move at their own fast pace instead of being tethered to the pace of the class as a whole.

## **Isn't private tutoring just for kids who are struggling?**

No! On the contrary, the purpose of the private lessons program is not to provide remedial instruction -- its purpose is to provide supplementary instruction for students seeking to get the most out of their music education.

## **Who will be my child's private lessons teacher?**

Private lessons instructors at Faubion are carefully selected by the band directors and receive the same scrutiny as full-time teachers at the district level before being hired.



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Most of our teachers hold graduate degrees (masters & doctorate) on their instrument and are professional performing musicians in the area.

## **Why should I take lessons at Faubion? Couldn't my child take lessons from someone else, like a relative who played the guitar back in 1992?**

With private lessons, just as with any worthwhile product or service, you get what you pay for. By studying with a Faubion-approved private lessons teacher, your child will receive instruction that aligns with the philosophy and quality of the Faubion Band. The band directors are able to collaborate with our lessons teachers and work together to give every student the best experience possible -- this is not possible with non-Faubion instructors.

## **When do lessons happen?**

Private lessons are offered once per week either before school, after school, or during your child's band class, depending on the teacher's availability and your schedule. Private lessons may not happen during any other class besides band.

## **Shouldn't we try to avoid missing band class to take a private lesson?**

No! Taking a private lesson is the best possible reason for a student to miss a bit of band class. In this scenario, a student is trading group instruction for individual instruction -- a good tradeoff by any measure! It's important to remember, too, that lessons are only once per week, and during-class lessons take only half of one class period. Families are occasionally hesitant about this, however, and they are encouraged to consider before- or after-school lessons, if scheduling is available.

## **How long is a lesson?**

A during-class lesson is 25 minutes; a before-or after-school lesson is 30 minutes. Both options are the same cost, and the shortened lesson taken during class is considered to be a convenience fee. Lesson lengths and rates are standardized across all of McKinney ISD. 60-minute lessons may be available outside of the school day by some private lessons teachers, but the standard lesson is 30 minutes.

## **What is the cost?**

Each lesson costs \$24, regardless of whether it is a during-class lesson or a before-or-after school lesson. Lesson lengths and rates are standardized across all of



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McKinney ISD. Compared to the rates charged by independent teachers, not under the Faubion umbrella and who are not affiliated with McKinney ISD -- who can charge \$40 to \$80 per hour -- this is a comparative steal.

### **How does payment work?**

Payment details will be communicated by your lessons teacher, and payment is made directly to them, usually in the form of a monthly check. Please understand that our private lesson teachers make their living teaching our students and students at other schools; in many cases, it is the primary source of their livelihood, in addition to performing. As such, timely payments and 24 hours notice of a missed lesson are important facets of private lessons enrollment. A missed lesson without notice will be charged at the full rate. With proper notice, alternative scheduling can be arranged.

### **Can we just take a few lessons to get started and then discontinue lessons?**

No. The purpose of private lessons is to provide continuous, enhanced instruction to students seeking to get the most out of their music education.

### **How do we enroll?**

Private lessons enrollment is part of the Band Registration process done at the beginning of the school year. It is not too late to enroll if you decline lessons at the time of registration, but it is best to enroll early to ensure teacher availability. Because we hire only the best, our lessons teachers are in high demand, and their schedules fill up quickly! Enroll by completing the Online Private Lesson Enrollment Form.