

Private Lessons FAQ

2011-2012

Why does the band program encourage private lessons?

Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all band students, particularly in the sixth grade year. Private lessons provide consistent one-on-one instruction for students, which is crucial in the first year of study. Private lessons allow students to reinforce and receive personal insights on the fundamentals that will help them be successful as a musician, as well as allow them to move at an accelerated pace beyond that of the normal band class. Private lessons also help our 7th-8th grade students to prepare for additional band events, such as Region Band, Solo and Ensemble contest, chair tests, and additional auditions. Collectively private lessons insure a solid musical foundation for our students, and encourage a diligent, progressive approach to improving musicianship and organizational skills.

How do I enroll my child online?

To enroll online, visit the link (PL Online Registration) on the private lessons page at crmsband.com. This will take you to LISD's online registration system. Select 'Register for Summer Programs'. Select 'LISD MIDDLE SCHOOL Bands'. Select 'Private Lessons: Canyon Ridge MS Band'. Click on the link labeled 'CLICK HERE to Register for this Class'. If you are new to the system, you will create an account. If you are returning, you may enter your previous account information.

Once signed in, you will enter information for both you and your student, as well as provide your credit card information. If you have entered all information correctly, you should receive a confirmation email from our Fine Arts Administrative Secretary, Sheila Olenich. If you do not receive an email, you have not been enrolled.

There is currently a disclaimer on the online registration site stating that LISD does not provide refunds. This is NOT true for private lessons. That disclaimer is/was used for enrichment/summer courses, and has not been removed yet. It does not apply to private lessons enrollment.

I did not receive a confirmation email. What should I do?

If you did not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours, please email Sheila Olenich to confirm that your information was not received and your credit card has not been charged. Once you are assured that your registration did not process, try to apply again using the online system, or if you would rather, send a paper enrollment form, along with a check to cover your deposit.

How can I enroll my child without using the online system?

If you would rather enroll on paper or without using a credit card, we do have a paper enrollment form (link on crmsband.com: 'PL Policies and Enrollment Form'). Simply complete this form, and return to the CRMS Band Directors with a check to pay your deposit. Your form and check will be mailed from the CRMS Band Hall directly to the Fine Arts Office.

What length of lesson is recommended for my student?

For 6th grade students, we recommend 20-30 minutes. For 7th/8th grade students, we recommend 30 minutes. Older students are typically working on more advanced concepts/music, and they benefit greatly from having a full 30 minute lesson once a week.

How is my student assigned to a teacher?

Once your registration (either online or paper) is received by the CRMS Band Directors, we determine which of our private lessons faculty would be best suited for your student. Your contact information is then sent to the private lessons teacher, and they will contact you via email or phone to schedule your child's private lesson.

When do lessons start?

Lessons can start as early as the first week of school, depending on how quickly your registration is received. As soon as we have received your registration information/deposit, and your lesson is scheduled, lessons can begin. Most 6th grade students that are registered the first week of school will begin lessons around the third week of school.

How often do lessons occur?

Lessons occur once every week.

When/where may lessons occur?

Lessons may occur before school, during your child's band class, or after school in the CRMS band hall.

How do I pick a day/time for my lesson?

Most of our private lessons teachers teach at other schools as well as CRMS. Because of this, they usually determine which days of the week they will be at CRMS before school starts. When the private lessons teacher contacts you, they will let you know their availability and will help you select the best time for your child. They will take into consideration the preferences you put on your enrollment form.

Can I bring my payment to the Canyon Ridge MS Band Hall?

Credit card payments can be made using the online system. Payments by check should be mailed directly to the LISD Fine Arts Office. Checks SHOULD NOT be sent to the CRMS Band Hall with your student. Band Directors will not take checks for monthly payments. Below is the address checks may be mailed to:

Leander ISD, Fine Arts Department
PO Box 218
Leander, TX 78646

How are private lessons teachers hired?

Private lessons faculty go through a careful screening process with the Vandegrift HS, Four Points MS, and Canyon Ridge MS band directors. We interview qualified candidates as a cluster in order to insure our students will receive consistent instruction beginning in 6th grade and continuing through their senior year of HS. All private lessons faculty have completed an undergraduate degree in either music education or music performance. Many of our teachers have completed Master's and Doctoral degrees in music, as well. Several of our teachers perform professionally, as well as teach privately full-time. We select our faculty based on their knowledge of their instrument, their teaching capabilities, and most importantly, their ability to communicate and interact with our students in a positive and professional manner.

Can I enroll my child later (not at the beginning of the school year)?

Absolutely! The advantage to enrolling at the beginning of the school year is convenience in scheduling your lesson time. PL teachers begin the school year with greater flexibility in their own schedules, making it easier to fit your child into your requested times. You are ALWAYS able to enroll your child at a later date; however, be aware that teachers' schedules can reach their maximum capacity or they may be unable to accommodate your requested times.