

2008-2009 Downing Band Private Lessons Program

The Lewisville Independent School District has traditionally offered students the opportunity to study privately through an organized Private Lesson Program. Students who study privately derive increased benefits from one-on-one attention from expert musicians on their particular instrument. Additionally, private lessons are an enriching and broadening experience for the students. They are a combined effort between the directors, parents, student, and the individual private instructor to better educate our students.

We maintain a listing of private teachers available for each instrument. **These teachers have been approved by the Downing Band Directors, and have made music instruction their profession.** One of the keys to the success of the Downing Band Program will be the participation in the private lesson program. To experience the optimum amount of success, students should start lessons early and continue throughout the year.

- Students will generally take one 30 minute lesson per week. The cost for each lesson will be **\$17.00** per half-hour lesson.
- Lessons also may occur during the band period depending on the schedule of the student and the lesson teacher. In some cases, 22-minute lessons will be necessary. The cost would be **\$14.50**.
- Payment for private lessons will be handled by the private lesson instructor. Usually, bills will be handed out on the last lesson of the month, and payment will be expected on the first lesson of the month for the entire month.
- It is recommended that students wishing to take private lessons sign-up for lessons at the beginning of the school year. Lesson teachers set their schedules and it is often difficult to add students later in the year.
- Students of all levels can benefit from private instruction.
- More specific information is detailed in the Downing Band Private Lessons Policies Section.

All students are strongly encouraged to sign-up for private lessons. Private lessons do not guarantee higher grades or a higher band placement. **If you have any questions regarding the private lesson program, please contact Mr. Smith or Ms. Pritchard.** We would be happy to answer address any concerns.

2008-2009 Downing Band Approved Private Lesson Staff

* L.I.S.D. Private Lesson Teachers have been screened and approved by the school district

Flute

Rick Breitstein

Oboe

Laura Shouha

Bassoon

Michael Jones

Clarinet

Damien Gibson

Saxophone

Ryan Duhon

Trumpet/Cornet

Ben Shaffer

Horn

David Loesser

Trombone

Marte Kennedy
Tim Rosie

Euphonium

Jamie Lipton
Additional Teacher??

Tuba

Alex Costantino

Percussion

Eric Martin

Downing Private Lesson Policies:

Scheduling

- Scheduling with a private lesson teacher will be done as quickly as possible (after director receives completed enrollment).
- An occasional delay in placement might occur due to teacher availability.

Financial Statement

- Lack of personal financial resources should not prohibit a student from participating in the private lesson program.
- Please contact a Downing Band Director if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Absence from Lessons

- Once assigned a lesson time, students are expected to attend.
- No show / No call is an unexcused absence for lessons.
- Unexcused lessons will be charged to the student.
- A student who wishes to be excused from his/her lesson must contact **the private lesson teacher** at least 24 hours in advance. **(Contacting a director or school attendance office does not excuse an absence.)**
- It is important that students obtain their assigned private teacher's phone number and/or e-mail so that contact can be made easily.
- **STUDENTS/Parents are responsible for making contact with their teacher in order to be granted an excused absence.**
- Notice for absences for school events should also be given (Private Lesson teachers are not employees of LISD and are unaware of "special event" days).
- Emergency situations on the day of the lesson will be the only excuse for failing to give the required 24-hour notice. However, the teacher must still be notified. Failure to do so will result in the student being charged for the lesson.
- Keep your private lesson teacher informed of what is coming up (Pep rallies, testing, field trips – it is your responsibility to cancel/reschedule lessons).

Termination of Private Lesson Program

- Students should inform their director and private lesson teacher of their intention to terminate lessons **in writing**.
- A copy of this letter needs to be on file with the Downing Band Directors.

Commitment

- Students and parents are asked to commit to the private lesson program for the entire YEAR, if you find it necessary to terminate lessons we ask that this be done at semester break **(must be in writing)** if possible..
- We ask that lessons not be dropped until semester ends because teachers have reserved time for your student in their schedule.

Materials

- Lessons are designed primarily to teach fundamental concepts and utilize the characteristic literature of a particular instrument/voice rather than to rehearse music a student is performing in a school organization.
- Students may be asked to furnish outside materials.

Student Commitment

- If you, as a parent, commit time and money to this program, we suggest that you be insistent that your son/daughter practice daily at home. This will prohibit students and parents from feeling as if they are spending money indiscriminately.

Private Lesson Information Form

All students must return this form whether they are enrolling in private lessons or not.

All 7th and 8th grade students must return this form by Friday, August 29th.

All Beginner Band Students must return this form by Wednesday, September 3rd.

STUDENT'S NAME

INSTRUMENT

_____ My child is interested in starting private lessons.

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

TIME PREFERENCE _____

_____ My child is not interested in private lessons at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Smith at (972) 350-1456 or smithsj@lisd.net

PARENT'S SIGNATURE