



Private Lessons FAQ

Who takes private lessons?

Each student in the Scoggins 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 Scoggins 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 Scoggins are carefully selected by the band directors and receive the same scrutiny as full-time teachers at the district level before being hired. Most of our teachers hold graduate degrees on their instrument and are professional performing musicians in the metroplex.

Why should I take lessons at Scoggins? Can't we just get free lessons from a family member or neighborhood kid?

With private lessons, just as with any worthwhile product or service, you get what you pay for. By studying with a Scoggins-approved private lessons teacher, your child will receive instruction that aligns with the philosophy and quality of the Scoggins 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-Scoggins 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, with the exception of 8th period Advisory for 6th graders. Some 7th grade Symphonic Band members prefer to take their lesson during "C" lunch, which allows them to eat "B" lunch once per week.

Is it a bad idea to do our private lessons during band class?

No! Taking a private lesson is just about 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 22 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 Frisco ISD. 60-minute lessons may be available outside of the school day by some private lessons teachers, but the standard lesson is 30 (or 22) minutes.

What is the cost?

Each lesson costs \$18, 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 Frisco ISD. Compared to the rates charged by independent teachers not under the Scoggins umbrella and who are not affiliated with Frisco 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?

Contact your private lessons teacher directly. Contact information is on the Scoggins Band website.

The Scoggins Band is fortunate to be able to provide this exceptional opportunity for students and band families. Private lessons at Scoggins are a convenient and economical way for your child to receive individualized instruction. We hope you will take advantage of this powerful program.