

PRIVATE LESSONS

All Jaguar Band students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills, and all top band students are expected to be involved in some way in the private lesson program. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make 'all the difference' in a student's progress on his/her musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in band. The cost is \$18 per 30-minute lesson. While we, as directors, are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. Private lessons help students develop individually as musicians, as well as provide specific instruction for band music, region/area/state auditions, solo literature, technique and tone exercises, and much more. The Jaguar Band directors will assist band students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in 'locking in' with a teacher as soon as possible. **Students interested in private lessons but unable to fulfill the financial obligations of lessons should complete the attached "Private Lesson Scholarship Application" immediately and return it to Mr. Burke.**

Applications must be submitted by SEPTEMBER 21st in order to be considered for the 2021-22 school year.

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are **welcome** to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the many **thousands** of dollars' worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that **ONLY** band students come into the band hall during the school day **and** before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. The Band Hall is a "safe haven." We stress that all band students be responsible and keep their equipment **PUT UP** in their lockers at all times. Many times "clean-up" duty is assigned to "untidy" band members to help develop orderly skills.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Mesquite ISD provides school owned instruments in the double reed, low woodwind, selected low brass, and percussion sections. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$6,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. All of these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense. Mesquite ISD carries **NO** insurance on school instruments. If the instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the **student's responsibility** to replace the instrument. Many parents carry an insurance rider to cover a checked-out school musical instrument. In addition, students may obtain inexpensive coverage on a school or privately owned instrument from the *Music Agency, Inc.*, Arlington, Texas. Application forms for this insurance are available online.

CONDUCT

The conduct of each band member should be above reproach. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should know how to show appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the Jaguar Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of lack of pride and a lack of concern for the band. If a student's conduct grade falls below a "C" in band or in any other class, he/she could be removed from their current band assignment. During marching season, the student could be removed from the marching band formation as well. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct or violate the policies of the school could be removed from the band program.