



Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School

Israel Castaneda
Director of Bands

Marcus James
Associate Director of Bands

Private Lesson Enrollment Packet

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for supporting your child's interest in the Fine Arts. The LCM band program has had a decades-long tradition of excellence spanning multiple generations and is known all across the state for its superior quality and skill. A critical factor in this success has been the LCM private lesson program. This program, should you choose to be a part of it, is the surest way to receive the quickest "return on investment" for your child's musical development.

As a classroom teacher, it is impossible to consistently instruct every student on a one-on-one basis. Private lessons, however, provide your child with a weekly 30-minute instructional period with a professional teacher/performer on their specialized instrument. This allows students to progress at their own pace with supervised quality instruction.

Our staff would like for you to consider this outstanding option for your child. The following packet will provide more information on the details of the program. Lessons will be held on Mondays of each week beginning on **Monday, September 11th, 2023, with additional low brass and percussion on every following Thursday.** The deadline to register for the private lessons program is Tuesday, September 5th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (409)886-5821 ext. 1340 or by email at mjames@lcmcisd.org.

Warm regards and *Go Battlin' Bears!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcus A. James
Associate Director of Bands
Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School

Principles of the Program

Purpose

1. To improve the quality of music education in the Little Cypress Mauriceville Public Schools.
2. To provide for the individual differences of music students.
3. To boost the achievement level of all students.
4. To aid the student in mastery of essential elements as set forth by the Texas Education Code.
5. To provide private teaching in the school building after school hours allowing students to take advantage of the convenience, expense, and time saving factors lost by traveling elsewhere for this instruction.
6. To provide the student with one-on-one guidance by a specialist on the student's instrument.
7. To aid the student in attaining the musical goals as set forth in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Public Schools music curriculum guides.

Instructors

Flute: Ms. Diana Miranda, Lamar University
Oboe/Bassoon: Mrs. Stephanie Teague, LCMCISD*
Clarinet: Ms. Evelyn Aldaco, Lamar University
Saxophone: Mr. Kace Smith, Lamar University
High Brass: Mr. Thomas Holland, LCMCISD*
Low Brass: Mr. Kevin Espinoza, Lamar University
Percussion: Ms. Sara Alvarez, Lamar University

Financing

\$45 in cash, check, or paid online via Ludus with a completed enrollment form is required for a student to begin lessons. The \$45 check will pay for the first three lessons. Please note that Ludus collects a small convenience fee for all online payments. The deadline to submit your registration form and attached payment is **Tuesday, September 5th**.

Fees for a 30-minute lesson are:

\$15.00 for teachers without a degree.

\$18.00 for teachers with a bachelor's degree, **designated above with an asterisk.**

\$20.00 for teachers with a master's degree, **designated above with a double asterisk.**

Checks are to be made payable to LCM Band Private Lessons with the **STUDENT'S NAME** noted on the check. If your child is scheduled with a teacher who has a bachelor's degree or higher, the difference will be debited to your account on the second month.

We would like as many students as possible to participate, so please don't let the financial commitment bar you from allowing your child to receive this service! Simply reach out to the directors and we will work with you on a case-by-case basis.

Billing

After the initial check has been received, statements are issued monthly. You will be billed a month in advance to pay our instructors timely. Billing is prepared the 1st week of each month for lessons to be taken the following month. Students are not billed for excused absences. If you have not received a bill by the 15th of the month, please call Brittany Stevenson at the high school band office (409)886-5821 ext. 1350 or by email at bstevenson@lcmcisd.org.

Attendance

Occasionally, there will be a reason for not attending a scheduled private lesson.

Acceptable excuses for missing lessons are:

- Student illness
- Family emergency
- Scheduled band performance

**Even if the absence is excused, Mr. James must be notified at least 24 hours in advance or as soon as possible.*

Please understand that the following are **NOT** acceptable reasons to miss a lesson:

- Babysitting, or other work-related excuse
- Homework
- Band rehearsals (unless approved in advance by the director)
- Non-school athletic practice

Every effort will be made to adapt our students schedule as they move from fall to spring sport and dance activities. Please call the office in advance to schedule a permanent lesson time change.

Lessons Cancellation

If a lesson is to be missed for **ANY** reason, (illness, band rehearsal, testing, etc.) please contact Mr. James at (409)886-5821 ext. 1340 or by email at mjames@lcmcisd.org. If you are unable to reach Mr. James, please contact Brittany Stevenson at (409)886-5821 ext. 1350 or by email at bstevenson@lcmcisd.org.

A parent or student **MUST give proper notification at least 24 hours prior to missing a lesson or as soon as possible.*

If Mr. James is not notified of an absence, the student will be given an ***UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**. Three unexcused absences will result in automatic termination of lessons. (NOTE: Do **NOT** assume we will know about field trips, concerts, etc., that may result in missing a lesson.)

**Your account will be billed for unexcused absences.*

There are certainly other valid reasons for missing a private lesson; however, it is in the best interest of the student to limit the number of absences.

****Students MUST develop a habit of consistency with their lessons if the lessons are to be of any benefit.***

It is important to remember that many of our private teachers will be driving from Beaumont, Port Arthur, Lake Charles, and beyond to teach private lessons. We will not continue to keep quality teachers here if they drive this distance and have students miss their lessons.

If a private teacher should be unable to be present for a regularly scheduled lesson, he or she must notify the director and the student 24 hours in advance. In this event, the lesson will either be rescheduled, or the student will NOT be charged. The teacher must also justify his or her absence to Mr. James. In the case of conflict of opinion, the Director of Bands will act as final arbitrator.

Cooperative Obligations

LCM Band will:

- Furnish facilities, scheduling, and orientation of the private lesson staff.

Private Teachers will:

- Provide professional, reliable, and conscientious efforts so that our students receive the best instruction possible.
- Will be dependable and on time to all lessons and will maintain regular contact with the directors and parents concerning the students' progress.

In each lesson private teachers are to:

- Assess the achievement level of each individual student.
- Prescribe individual exercises, etudes, and other materials that will lead the student to achieve his/her maximum potential.

Students/Parents will make every effort to:

- Practice and be properly prepared for each lesson.
- Understand that the private teacher's livelihood depends upon prompt and consistent payment.

It is important to realize that the degree of the student's success is directly proportional to the degree of his/her effort and dedication.

Curriculum Expectations

Due to the individualized nature of the private lesson program, it is highly impractical to suggest an overall, specific plan for the private teacher and his students. However, there are several items of importance that the private teachers should know.

1. High school and junior high all-region contest music should be emphasized during the fall semester.
2. High school and 7th & 8th grade students taking lessons are expected to perform a solo provided by their private instructor at solo contest in March.
3. It is the private teacher's responsibility to check with the directors concerning which students are required or eligible to play at these events.
4. With beginner band students, the emphasis should be placed on tone quality and production, ease of playing, and basic fundamentals of reading. ie. key signature, counting, hand position, correct breathing, embouchure, etc.
5. Each student should be working out of a method book designed to supplement the school curriculum. You may wish to ask the directors for suggestions in this area.
6. Each different level of player has different scale requirements. Check with each director of details concerning scales and technique requirements.

Solo and Ensemble Preparation

Participation in solos and ensembles is expected from all students who take private lessons. Preparation for this performance should begin no later than December 1. Private teachers are to begin working with the campus directors regarding solo and ensemble contest during the month of November.

Musical Expectations

Each lesson should focus on the following concepts:

- Motivation
 - Tone Quality
 - Intonation
 - Musicianship
 - Technical Facility
 - Sight-reading
 - Basic Music Theory
 - Practice Techniques
- **Motivation** – This is perhaps the single most important factor for success in any endeavor. The private teacher must continually seek new methods of getting the students to be self-motivated. Teachers should also realize that different personalities require different approaches. However, almost all human beings respond to positive encouragement and success. It is imperative that these be used to instill motivation in your students. The successful teachers are those that are truly able to motivate their students.
 - **Tone Quality** – Beautiful tone quality is the result of physical actions and mental concepts. Proper attention must be paid to correct breathing, embouchure, and correct adjustment of the mouthpiece and/or reed. Correct modeling of a good tone is of utmost importance in developing the student's aural concept.
 - **Intonation** – Playing in tune is a result of good tone quality in addition to learning to match pitch. Training a student to listen critically is a lesson for all levels of musicians.

It is helpful for the teacher to be discriminating in knowing when to play along with the student.

- **Musicianship** – Sensitive musicianship is a result of constant encouragement by the teacher for the student to perform with feeling, emotion, and sensitivity. Once good tone, technique, and intonation are established, a student can then give proper attention to dynamics, phrasing, tempo, and other nuances.
- **Technical Facility** – Good technique is a result of consistent and constant drill that enables the student to adequately manipulate the instrument and perform music. Assigning appropriate materials requiring practice time in order to master these skills are very important. Major and minor scales and interval studies must be a portion of these materials.
- **Sight-reading** – The ability to sight-read successfully is a result of a combination of technique and music literacy. Students should have a grasp of rhythm and note reading skills that aid them in playing new material. The private teacher should outline steps that will enable students of all levels to successfully sight-read music appropriate to their level of musicianship.
- **Basic Music Theory** – Knowledge of theory is the result of the private teacher's consistent use of language referring to the basic elements of music theory. Constant reference to key signatures, intervals, music terms, and rhythm counting must be a part of each lesson.
- **Practice Techniques** – These techniques are a result of the student learning order, importance, and benefits of consistent practice. The private teacher should aid the student in organizing and keeping track of their practice times. Since a private lesson instructor's time with a student is limited to 30 minutes a week, every effort should be made to enhance the lesson by establishing proper practice techniques the student can use outside of the lesson.

Private Lessons Calendar 2023-2024

Lesson dates are highlighted and in bold.

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sep. 11th – LESSONS BEGIN

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan. 8th – LESSONS RESUME

January 15th – NO LESSONS, MLK DAY

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February 12th – NO LESSONS, WINTER BREAK

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Nov 20th - NO LESSONS,
THANKSGIVING BREAK

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 13th & April 1st – NO LESSONS, SPRING
BREAK

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Dec 4th – LAST LESSONS OF SEMESTER

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 15th – LESSONS END

**PRIVATE LESSON ENROLLMENT FORM
DUE NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th**

The paperwork needed to enroll in private lessons is available on the LCM Bands website, available via the QR Code below. To register, follow the link, then click button that reads “Enroll Now”. Fill out the Lessons Registration Form (AKA “the purple form”), then be sure to pay your initial \$45 fee to pay for the first three lessons. The deadline to enroll is Tuesday, September 5th. **Your registration will not be accepted until the initial \$45 dollar fee is received.**



<https://www.lcmbands.com/private-lessons.html>