



Hello Agamim families!

My name is Trish Matasovsky and I'm excited to offer band lessons to Agamim families this year! I am a music educator who previously taught band at Shakopee Junior High. I enjoy instilling a love for music in kids, especially through instruments.

Lessons this year will be offered for those in 4th-8th grade. If you've had interest in your child learning a band instrument and want the convenience of doing so during the school day, follow the steps below:

1. Review the links* about the different kinds of instruments. Listen to the videos on each instrument and become interested in learning one.
2. Fill out the interest form by **Wednesday, September 6**.
3. Students attend Eckroth Music's instrument showing at school on **Monday, Sept 11**.
4. Select an instrument you'd like to play and fill out the registration form by **Friday, Sept 15**.
5. Families will be notified about the lottery results the week of **Sept 18th**.
6. Begin weekly group lessons by the end of September.
7. Begin weekly band ensemble a few months after lessons begin.

*URL Link to this letter, information about specific instruments, and interest form:

<https://tinyurl.com/we7tvemk>



FAQ

How will students be placed in lesson groups?

Students will be placed in small lesson groups with their same instrument and will be pulled from their classrooms once a week for lessons.

What's the cost for the program?

Band participation is billed semesterly or quarterly by Trish Matasovsky. Semesterly rates are \$285 and quarterly are \$145. There is also a yearly registration fee of \$25.

How many students can participate in the program?

Band participation is limited to 40 students at this time. There will be a lottery for each instrument. Ideal instrumentation is 7-8 flutes, 7-8 clarinets, 6-7 alto saxes, 6-7 trumpets, 5-6 trombones, 1-2 baritones, 3-4 percussion. A lottery drawing will occur to decide involvement after registration.

Is attendance required each week?

Regular attendance at lessons and rehearsals is required. If a student forgets his/her instrument or music, they still should attend lessons or ensemble.

What does practice at home look like?

Consistent practice is key for musical success. Generally, the more a student practices, the better they will sound on their instrument. I recommend 15-20 minutes of practice per day, five days per week.

Will I need to purchase anything along with the instrument?

Your registration fee will include a lesson book that we will use throughout the year. Other accessories will need to be purchased on your own including a music stand and individual instrument accessories like reeds and oils. (A list will be sent home for each instrument and what is needed). A metronome/tuner combo is helpful as well, but you can also download a metronome/tuner app for free.

What is the commitment for band?

Involvement with the band lesson program requires a commitment. Students must register for the first semester and if they decide to drop out, they may do so mid-year. Mid-year entries will be accepted if there is availability and the student shows commitment of putting extra effort in, as they will be behind those who began earlier.

Will there be any concerts?

Large group ensemble will begin later in the year, when basic instrument playing through lessons has been established. A performance will be held in the spring to showcase the year's learning. A specific date and time is TBD.

Should I rent or purchase an instrument?

To avoid a large initial monetary investment, I recommend renting an instrument from a reputable music vendor. Advantages: (1) Guaranteed working condition. (2) Proper selection of equipment and mouthpiece. (3) Ability to return the instrument without further obligation.

May I purchase an instrument from another source?

Absolutely. However, realize that different brands may be inferior in quality and can be detrimental to your student's progress. Never buy instruments from places that do not specialize in music such as Amazon, Target, Walmart, etc. These instruments can and will present problems down the road and instrument repair technicians will not even touch them if they are not reputable brands.

Used instruments can be a great option as well. If you do purchase one used online, I highly recommend having it looked over by a repair technician before band starts to make sure it's in working order. Email Mrs. Matasovsky (bandlessons4kids@gmail.com) for specific brand and instrument questions if purchasing an instrument.

Is it okay to use the instrument we have at home?

Most likely, yes. If you already own an instrument, I would again recommend having it looked over by a technician to make sure it's working well and is good quality.