

## Qualities To Look For In A Good Private Teacher

- A desire to teach
- Experience
- Knowledge of the instrument or voice
- Knowledge of appropriate music literature
- Ability to design and implement a sequential individual learning plan
- Understanding of students, their ability levels and their busy lifestyles
- Patience
- Organization
- Clear communications



## Exploring Private Music Lessons

-an investment for the future-



produced by  
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## Music Means Success

The study of music and participation in music activities enhances a student's intellect, attitude, and success in life. A growing body of evidence suggests that music study improves a student's ability to learn and succeed in school. According to a recent report by The College Board (2009), music students score an average of 57 points higher on the verbal section of the SAT, and 41 points higher on the math section of the SAT than their non-music peers. They also earn more school honors and scholarships than their non-musician peers.

The intense concentration and discipline necessary to gain musical skills transfer directly to other aspects of school and life. Self esteem, the ability to work as a member of a team, accountability, and the ability to express are all skills that benefit students later in life.

"Private lessons have helped me out immensely. No matter how hard you work on your own, there is no substitute for a teacher with many years of education and experience."

- Jim Allen, CMR senior, percussion

## Why Study Privately?

While involvement in the school band, orchestra, or choir provides much needed group experiences, such ensemble training cannot provide the individual attention to students necessary to realize their full potential. Private lessons with a qualified instructor can create opportunities for accelerated achievement and honors such as:

- Increased satisfaction from music
- Accelerated study, more complex and interesting music
- Selection into top school ensembles, leadership roles
- Top chair placement and solo performances
- All-State and All-Northwest honor group membership
- Great Falls Youth Symphony membership
- Local and college scholarships

"By taking private lessons I have learned to challenge myself, better appreciate my instrument, and discovered how music can evoke extreme emotion....It is a great experience that is well worth the time and effort."

- Marissa McCormick, Choteau high school graduate, French horn and piano

## How Can I Find a Private Instructor?

A listing of private teachers in the Great Falls area is now online. Search by zip code, instrument or by the last name of a particular teacher at [www.privatemusicteaching.org](http://www.privatemusicteaching.org). As you begin searching out a private teacher, you may want to ask them:

- What experience do you have as a private music teacher?
- What goals do you establish for your students?
- List some specific skills you expect your students to gain.
- Where are your lessons taught?
- What do you charge? (per half hour, per hour)
- What other costs may be incurred besides lesson fees?
- What are your attendance and practice expectations?

"My biggest regret is not starting earlier in my private study. Even though the skills found in each lesson are priceless, there is even more to take from it on a personal level." - Mitchel Wanke, GFHS graduate, viola

## When Is A Good Time to Start?

Today! Private lessons are beneficial at any age, especially with a skilled teacher who is able to meet the student at his/her ability level and make significant progress.

"Not only have I studied a broad scope of music literature while perfecting my technique, I have also received valuable advice and encouragement. My private teachers introduced me to a world of music and have remained supportive mentors all throughout my studies."

James Sanchez, GFHS graduate, cello and piano

## Are Lessons Worth The Cost?

Only the individual family can assess the affordability of private study. However, it is rare to find a parent who does not believe private lessons were an excellent investment in their child. In many cases, students may help earn part or all of the cost of lessons.