

First Lesson

What does my child need for the first lesson?

Students should bring their instrument and music book (unless it was delivered to LJM or if it's a school-owned instrument, then I have it). Students do not need to bring their music stand to school. I will be going over instrument set up, care, and how to make a sound in the first lesson.

Do drummers need to bring their instrument to school?

I ask that drummers bring their instrument to school for the first lesson, then after that they just need their book and sticks.

Schedule

Where can I find the lesson schedule?

I will always email schedules to you, if it gets lost in your inbox, it is posted on the [LJM Band Page](#). You can get to this page from that link, from the link in my email signature, or by going to my staff page on the RLASD website.

Where can my child see the schedule?

The schedule will be posted in their homeroom classroom. I will also be adding the new band students to a Schoology Classroom in which they can find the schedule. Please help your child get into the routine of checking the lesson schedule so that they know what time to come down to my room.

Why do the last names on the schedule look like that?

The schedule will be posted online. In order to keep anonymity, the last names contain only the first two letters and then the last letter of the name.

Lesson Procedures

What should my child do when it is their lesson time?

The time that is on the schedule is the time the student should leave their classroom to come to the instrument room. If your child is unsure where the instrument room is, you can tell them it is next to the music room.

Practicing at Home

How long should my child be practicing?

To start, a good practice goal is 10-15 minutes every day. I know that everyone has a different schedule so the “every day” part might not be achievable for some. But I do recommend a little bit of practice close to every day rather than a large chunk of practice time on one day. So try to find some time each day set aside for practicing and help encourage your child to stay in that routine. And if it starts to become a fight with your child, feel free to let me know and I can help out!

What should my child be practicing?

To start, most students will receive a beginner practice packet (except for snare drummers and bells). For the first several lessons we will be using this book to practice music reading and learning how to play the first few notes. After that, we will begin using the lesson book Tradition of Excellence.

Snare Drummers and Bells will start in the lesson book right away (Rhythm Reading for Drums for Snare Drummers and Tradition of Excellence for Bell players).

Once band students are working out of the lesson book, they will receive a unit tracker. This tracker will allow both you and your child to see what they can be working on at home. The band students will be playing those exercises for me in lessons trying to pass it off. Once they can play each exercise and get each one passed off, they will receive the next unit. Additional assignments will be added throughout the year, especially when we start working on the concert music.

Does my child need to track their practice time?

Yes. Band students will get a weekly practice tracker every lesson. They will be expected to hand in their practice tracker each lesson as well. They should record the day they practice and the approximate number of minutes they practiced each day. Before they bring it in to me, **they should get you to sign it.** I do this to encourage the students to keep you informed of their practice.