

WHERE? -----

The BHS music wing. There are 6 practice rooms plus several music classrooms where teachers and students can meet in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Teachers and students have access to pianos, computers with SmartMusic software, the music library, percussion instruments, music chairs and stands, and more. Plus, this type of local program will help **parents avoid transporting students to other towns** for private lessons.

HOW? -----

Fill out the enrollment form and return it to their music teacher or fill out the online form at www.BellinghamMusic.org. Students and their families can also apply for **scholarships** from the Bellingham Friends of Music. They will be offering as many half/partial scholarships so that more students can benefit from scholarship funds.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? ---

Private lessons will be set at **\$25** per half hour lesson, weekly. Private lessons are scheduled for 25 weeks throughout the school year. Lessons will start during the fourth week of September and continue to the second week of May. Depending on the day your lesson is scheduled for, you will have about **25 lessons** during a school year, plus an opportunity for some make-up lessons for snow days or illness. Lessons will not take place during school vacations and holidays. The cost of half-hour lessons for the entire school year will be \$625, but **payment can be spread out over four installments** of \$157.
Scholarships are available.

We want you to grow as musicians AND as people.

We want you to
feel more confident
and to
be a leader
in classes and ensembles.

We've gathered an exceptional adjunct faculty this year
just for you.

WHO IS IT GOOD FOR? -----

EVERYBODY.

Unlike tutoring, private lessons are not needed just for those students that may be struggling; they are for *every student*. Private lessons are a chance for your student to have lessons with a specialist on their instrument and have **instruction that is geared specifically for each student.**

In class, we are not able to give your student individualized attention as much as we would like. Students that may be struggling can get the extra help to improve, but the average-to-advanced players can get instruction to advance further, keep them challenged outside of class, and will **become musical leaders during class.**



Introduction & FAQs

**MRS. FORTE & MR. GLYNN
WANT YOU TO JOIN
BELLINGHAM'S
PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM**

Read about why and how...



www.BellinghamMusic.org

WHY? -----

An essential part of any successful music program is a strong private lesson program. Music students who enroll in private lessons are interested in developing their individual skills and techniques on their instruments or voice. It is difficult to develop the unique instrumental or vocal skills in a large ensemble setting. Having a private lesson with a highly qualified instructor gives students the opportunity to get **one-on-one attention** and develop a plan to address **individual strengths**, weaknesses, **specific musical interests** and set goals. Many times, students form a bond and relationship with their private teacher like a sports coach and work with the same teacher for several years.

WHEN? -----

Most music lessons are scheduled for **after-school hours once per week**. Sometimes, students and teachers schedule evening lessons depending on their individual schedules. Some lessons start at 2:00 p.m. while others begin at 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. Several students are able to take a lesson and still take the BHS late bus home, but it depends on the individual teacher's start time. While waiting, **students can do homework** in the library reading room or **go to sports practices** and then take their private lessons before they go home that day.

It's all up to the lesson teachers and the music student!



THIS IS NEW FOR ME... WHAT HAPPENS? -----

Well, the first thing you should know is that your private lesson teacher is going to be **very supportive and friendly**. He/she is here to help you **grow as a musician and person**. Teachers have been playing their instrument/singing for many years and they want to **share their excitement and passion with young musicians just like you**. They may introduce you to some warm-up exercises to do at the start of your lesson. Second, your teacher will have you work on exercises to learn specific skills or techniques. For example, if you are a brass player, your teacher will probably introduce you to some new lip slurs and tonguing exercises that will start off easy and get more challenging as you progress through the year.

You will learn some **new music of different styles** in your lessons. Teachers may include some songs that you want to learn and teach both **fun music and serious pieces**. Private lesson teachers will also help you with your band and chorus music. They will also help you if you want to **audition for an honors ensemble** like Central Districts, or prepare for a recital or other performance.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS? -----

The music staff has done a lot of work to make sure that the lesson teachers that come to BHS and BMMS are **highly qualified** teachers who understand how to help young musicians develop their skills. This is not the case with all private lesson teachers at other places. The music staff knows that these teachers will support our music program and **work in conjunction with the curriculum**. The music staff also makes sure that lesson teachers at BHS and BMMS have completed CORI background checks and the new federal finger-printing requirements.

FAQs -----

DOES MY FAMILY COME TO MY LESSON?

We have chairs and an area in the hallway right outside the music rooms for family members to wait if they wish.

DO LESSONS TAKE PLACE OF MY MUSIC CLASS?

Individual private lessons could never take the place of the comprehensive music curriculum. Private lessons are provided to help you in class – just like a tutor can help you in a specific academic class like math or English. Your lesson teacher is here to help you grow as a musician and that means you will be able to perform better in music class/ensemble and you will feel more confident as a musician overall. The music staff relies on students who study privately as leaders for the other students.

WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE A LESSON?

Give your teacher at least one week's notice. For illness or other emergencies, families need to contact the lesson teacher as soon as they realize they cannot attend the lesson.