

Dear St. John's families,

The information attached is to inform you of the possibility of incorporating the Walther Grade School Instrumental Program into your school's fine arts options for the upcoming school year.

The Walther Grade School Instrumental Program (WGSIP) is a ministry of the Walther Lutheran High School Association that has provided exceptionally high-quality music education to 23 Chicagoland parochial schools for the past 43 years through our band, string, and piano lessons and ensembles. We are looking to expand our band program into your school in the upcoming school year and wanted to provide you with a little more information on what could possibly be coming your way!

The WGSIP offers private (1 student) and semi-private (2 students) lessons once a week during the school day to students in grades 4-8. Additionally (but at no additional cost), students are invited to participate in ensembles both at their school and outside of the school setting. Some of those additional experiences include our Band Fest, in which all the students in our program have an opportunity to come together for a day of fun and music, working with guest conductors and professional musicians while hearing from and playing in some great ensembles, and our Monday Night Bands – two "All-Star" ensembles comprised of the intermediate and advanced students from all participating schools who meet on Monday evenings.

Students who already study an instrument are invited to jump right in with weekly lessons. For beginners, we offer a four-week class where students get to explore the band program and receive a "mini-lesson" on each band instrument. After the four weeks, students may choose an instrument to study. For those who need help obtaining an instrument, we provide an instrument free of charge for the first year while assisting you in getting your own if your student chooses to continue the following year.

Our program encourages band as part of a "lifelong learning" mentality. We believe students should be well-rounded. Our teachers understand that band is not the only activity your child participates in each week, and will encourage him/her to work to the best of his/her God-given ability without taking away from other activities he /she enjoys. At the same time, we provide every student with the foundational tools necessary to be successful musicians at the secondary level and beyond. Most students who graduate from our program go on to play in ensembles at their high schools; many work towards college scholarships with or without music as their major. Some go on to become successful professionals in the field, while others choose to continue playing for leisure in church or community groups.

The WGSIP is not a band company, but rather a ministry sponsored by Walther striving to give students the opportunity to discover and develop their God-given talents. Because of Walther's monetary support, we are able to charge each family far less than what it actually costs to run a high-quality band program. We invite you to look over the attached information which gives you more details about the services provided. If you are interested in this possibility for your child next year, please contact Ms. Julie Bernier at Julie_bernier@walther.com so we can determine how to move forward in planning for next year.

In Christ,

The Walther Grade School Instrumental Staff



Investing in the Future

Being a part of a band program costs money, but what exactly do you receive each semester for your investment?

- 14 private (or in some cases small-group) weekly lessons each semester (28 per year). **Divide the cost of each semester by 14 and it's approximately \$23/lesson.** And we come to your student's school to give them their lesson!

But that's not all you get...

- Beginners receive an instrument to use for one year, after which we discuss rental or purchase options.
- All music books, materials, and music
- Band rehearsals and concerts
 - Your child will be part of both their own school band, and a region band with other Lutheran and parochial schools in the area and will have a concert each semester.
- Monday Night Bands (beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels) at Walther Christian Academy.
 - Beginners meet monthly and intermediate and advanced students meet weekly.
 - Students involved in the advanced Monday Night Bands (usually 6th through 8th graders) are playing high school level music!
- Biennial Instrumental Music Festival at Walther Christian Academy
 - Spend a day working with clinicians and professional musicians
 - Perform in and listen to various ensembles throughout the day
 - Have fun and make new friends!
- The feeling of being part of a team to praise Christ with your talents!

More detailed information and directions on how to sign up is included in the "Walther Grade School Band Program Information Sheet."

For questions, contact Ms. Bernier at julie_bernier@walther.com or Miss Rose at samantha_rose@walther.com.

WALTHER GRADE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET: 2018-2019



- WHAT:** Private (15 minute) or in some cases small group (25 minute) instrumental lessons.
- WHEN:** During the school day at your child's school.
- WHO:** Students in Grades 4-8.
- COST:** Cost per semester for lessons, books, and music materials is \$325.00. This does not include the instrument or materials such as reeds or oil. **There are two semesters per school year; 14 lessons per semester. Tuition or beginner class fee is due before lessons begin. Beginners who decide to continue with an instrument must pay for the semester in full when he/she receives the instrument. You will be billed for second semester in January and payment must be received by January 31. Payment is made through Walther via check or credit card. Directions follow.**
- HOW TO OBTAIN AN INSTRUMENT:** Beginners may obtain an instrument free of charge through the Walther Instrument Bank on a first-come first-served basis for one year. After that, instruments can be rented at an area music store. Luscombe Music will be on hand at the beginner parent meeting to discuss instrumental rental options.
- INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT:** Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba
Percussion (snare drum, bass drum, bells, etc.)
- BEGINNERS:** New students receive a four week beginner class before they choose an instrument. This class consists of trying out the various band instruments and instruction in the basics of rhythm and note reading. The fee for this first semester is split -- \$100 for the beginner class and then \$225.00 for the remainder of the semester.) **STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE BEGINNER CLASS ARE NOT OBLIGATED IN ANY WAY TO CONTINUE WITH INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS, AND WILL ONLY BE CHARGED THE \$100 BEGINNER FEE.**
- RETURNING** Returning students receive lessons in school once per week and are eligible for all other related group activities. Please refer to the attached billing procedure explanation. **Note: If your child is a returning student considering another instrument, he/she may take the beginner class under the same conditions and fee structure as stated above in "BEGINNERS".**
- RELATED ACTIVITIES:** Small ensemble/Concert band rehearsals at your school
Regional Concert Bands
Monday Night Beginner Band once a month
Walther Grade School Monday Night Bands for intermediate and advanced students
Biennial Instrumental Festival at Walther High School
- ATTENDANCE POLICY** Our calendar can be found at www.walther.com
Students are required to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals. Planned absences must be notified in writing no later than one month in advance of performances and 24 hours in advance of rehearsals. On the third unexcused absence the student will not be allowed to participate in the concert for that semester. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in ineligibility to participate in performances for that group the following semester.
- EXITING THE PROGRAM:** Students may discontinue lessons at the conclusion of any semester. To exit the program, request an EXIT FORM from your instructor. **If you decide to leave in the middle of the semester, you will still be billed the entire fee for that semester.**
- ENROLLMENT:** To enroll your child in lessons, just fill out the attached sheet and return it to your school office.
- QUESTIONS:** For any questions, please contact either Ms. Bernier at julie_bernier@walther.com or Ms. Rose at samantha_rose@walther.com.

WALTHER GRADE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

LESSON AGREEMENT: 2018-2019



Student Information (please print):

first name _____ last name _____ school _____ grade _____

Check one: Beginning student Returning student: _____
 instrument _____ years experience _____

Parent Information (please print name and mailing address as on an envelope):

Mr./Mrs./Ms. First Name(s) _____ Last Name _____

Street Address, Apt. # _____

City, State Zip Code _____

Home phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____
 (area code) number (area code) number

Email (required): _____
This is the instructors' main form of communication. Please provide an email address that is checked regularly.

Agreement:

I, the parent of (print student's name) _____, permit my child to receive instrumental music lessons from a representative of the Walther Grade School Instrumental Program. I have read and agree to the billing, attendance, and exiting policies. I agree to provide a suitable instrument and MUSIC STAND for my child and of course, much encouragement.

I AGREE THAT ONCE MY CHILD HAS BEGUN A SEMESTER, I WILL PAY THE ENTIRE FEE OF \$325.00 FOR THAT SEMESTER TO WALTHER. (There are **two** semesters per school year and each semester consists of 14 lessons. Beginners pay \$100.00 for the four week beginner class and \$225.00 for the remainder of the semester if they decide to take an instrument.)

Parent Signature _____ Date _____
 Select one: Paid by check _____ Paid by Credit card (indicate date paid and amount): _____
 Check # _____

I grant permission for photos or videos of my child while participating in lessons, rehearsals, or concerts through the Grade School Instrumental Program may be used for Walther Lutheran High School Association publicity and publication purposes. I understand that my child's name will not be included. _____
 Parent initials

Checks are made payable to Walther Christian Academy with "Grade School Music" in the memo. Payments can also be made online with a credit card at walther.com. Select the "High School 9 – 12" drop-down menu, then "Grade School Instrumental Music", then "Grade School Tuition Payment."