

Music in Catholic Schools
Beginning Band
Information Packet



MCS BAND BEGINNING

WHAT – Music in Catholic Schools (MCS) is a parent-paid band program offered in 26 Catholic & 2 Lutheran schools in the Omaha area for all 5th through 8th grade students. We have been serving the Archdiocese of Omaha for 48 years and all staff members are certified music teachers! Concerts and other activities such as Band Olympics, Band Clinic, and Solo/Ensemble Festival are held throughout the year. Joint concerts are usually the first Sunday in December and the first Sunday in May. Performance is important! Students who participate in concerts make quicker progress and have more fun.

WHEN – Band students usually start lessons and band classes in 5th Grade with Music in Catholic Schools. Lessons/classes take place during the school day. Band teachers arrange times through the principal, with the help of classroom teachers. Band classes do pull students out of class, but we work to make the impact as minimal as possible. Students will never be asked to miss a test. At many of our schools, a rotating before school time is arranged for at least one lesson/class per week. This helps to minimize out of class times. The benefit of learning to play an instrument far outweighs any time missed in class and even helps students do better in their classes. Lessons start at the end of August.

WHERE – All lessons take place at your school. MCS band teachers travel to your school 1-2 times per week, depending on enrollment. Students may come to class with other students in their grade and with ‘like’ instruments. Each school has a place designated for classes. Ask your school or band teacher where students can expect to go for lessons and classes.

WHY – Music is beneficial to human development. Students who learn to play a musical instrument are more likely to excel in their studies, work better in teams, and stay in school. There is a lot of research that supports improved brain development in students who learn to play a musical instrument. Students develop a sense of belonging when they are part of the band. PLUS, it’s fun!

WHO – All 5th graders are invited to try band. We also allow for beginners in 6th through 8th grades. 1st year students are considered “beginners”, while 2nd through 4th years are considered “advanced”. Because it takes commitment, dedication, and practice, **we require registered students to be a part of MCS for at least 1 semester, however they are more successful when they participate the entire year, and beyond!** We know that if students dedicate time to practice, they will likely excel in playing an instrument and can find enjoyment that will last a lifetime!

TUITION – All families must register to have their student(s) participate in MCS. For 2026-2027, the full cost is \$80 per month (for 9 months) or \$720 per year to participate. There is also a reduced family rate of \$125/month, total \$1125 for 2 students or \$145/month, total \$1305 for 3 students. This is quite a bargain in comparison to the cost of regular private music lessons. PLUS, with MCS, students have semi-private lessons, band classes, the opportunity to play in a group setting and in band concerts, may audition for our honor band, participate in band clinic and solo/ensemble festival, as well as many other opportunities that private lessons do not offer. Sheet music and music books are provided. If your student qualifies for FREE or REDUCED lunch, we offer a discounted price to participate - \$30 per month (9 months) Free lunch price, \$40 per month (9 months) Reduced lunch price. We also offer tuition assistance for those in need. We want EVERYONE that wishes to participate to have the opportunity to play in band. Tuition does not cover the cost of an instrument. We have some instruments available through MCS at a GREATLY reduced rental fee for those in need. A \$45 fee for the entire year helps cover the cost of maintenance. **Registrations should be received by September 10th, 2026 – late registrations will be accepted with payment for any missed time. All are required to pay some tuition to MCS in support of the program – we simply cannot provide this program without the support of our families.**

QUESTIONS? – Contact Annette Wallace, MCS Director - email amwallace@archomaha.org or call (402) 827-3724
You can also check out our website <https://music.archomaha.org/> and find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/musicincatholicschools>

Beginning Instrument Choices

MCS teaches traditional concert band instruments:



Woodwinds – Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Oboe



Brass – Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone



Percussion – Snare Drum & Bells (Many other percussion instruments are explored throughout the years, such as Timpani, Cymbals, Triangle, Castanets, Tambourine, Bass Drum, and many more!)

CAUTION! - do not buy any instruments from the internet without checking into it thoroughly! Ask us – we can help! If it seems too good to be true (cheap price), it is most likely a sub-par brand that will break or possibly not play properly! This can be extremely frustrating for your child. Your student needs to have a quality instrument to be successful!

INSTRUMENT DISPLAY NIGHTS THIS FALL – Music stores will be on site and students can try out the instruments. We want to help students choose the best instrument for their success! Teachers will distribute fliers to all students regarding when and where these sessions will take place.

Check out our website <https://music.archomaha.org/> and follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/musicincatholicschools> for more information!

Band Instructors are: (current schools listed)

Mr. Dan Irvin dilirvin@archomaha.org – Dual Language Academy, Gethsemane Lutheran, Holy Name, Jesuit Academy, Sacred Heart, St. Bernard, St. Cecilia, St. James/Seton, St. Philip Neri, St. Robert Bellarmine.

Mr. Christopher Frisbie clfrisbie@archomaha.org – Christ the King, Mary Our Queen, Spirit & Grace Academy, St. Gerald, St. Patrick, Elkhorn, St. Stephen the Martyr, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Wenceslaus.

Mr. Sean Lockard sdlockard@archomaha.org – All Saints, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Columbkille, St. Margaret Mary, St. Mary Bellevue, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Pius/St. Leo, St. Thomas More.

Mrs. Annette Wallace – MCS Director, can be reached at amwallace@archomaha.org or call 402-827-3724

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND:



2026-2027 MCS Band Registration

Use the QR above or click this link:

https://archdioceseofomaha.formstack.com/forms/mcs_registration_2026_2027