

Hello Parents and Students,

I am very pleased to be continuing as the instrumental music teacher at Shutesbury Elementary School. I will be offering private and group instruction (available to students in grades 4-6) on piano, trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, recorder, drums and world percussion. The lessons will be taught during the school day on Fridays.

**THE PROGRAM STARTS ON OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Please register as soon as possible to allow time for lesson scheduling.

My teaching style is relaxed and upbeat, with an emphasis on fun and creativity. I introduce students to various musical traditions such as Jazz, Blues, Rock, Funk, Celtic, Klezmer, African, Caribbean, Latin, Middle Eastern, Movie & TV theme songs, as well as music from “standard” lesson books. I also introduce students to musical improvisation.

I have been teaching music to children and adults of all ages for the past 18 years. I have taught at Swift River School (New Salem), Wales Elementary School, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School (PVPA), the Williston-Northampton School, the Community Music School of Springfield, the Northampton Community Music Center, as well as private lessons at students’ homes. I also teach instrumental music at Leverett Elementary School and Swift River School (New Salem).

As a professional musician, I perform all over New England and New York with various bands, including The Wholesale Klezmer Band, The Pangeans (World Music), Big Bandemonium Contradance Band, the Gumbo Jumbo Dixieland Band, the Brian Bender Jazz Group, the World Beatniks, Little Shop of Horas, the Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children’s Theatre, and others. Every other year, I have a two-week European tour. I try to bring “real world” musical experience into the classroom in a way that is fun and accessible for the students.

I am looking forward to a great year of music with your children :)

Brian Bender  
Shutesbury, MA

## **Instrument Rentals and Books**

The school has a limited number of instruments (3 trumpets, 3 clarinets) available to students free of charge. Please make arrangements with Jackie Mendonsa. For the World Percussion class, instruments will be provided. Otherwise, instruments can be rented or purchased from:

- Gerry's Music (South Hadley) 413-534-7402
- City Music (Gardner) 978-630-3620
  - both stores sell recorders (no rentals)
  - both stores also sell books
- Downtown Sounds (Northampton) 413-586-0998

Continuing students can use their existing books.

For beginning students, parents will need to purchase these books:

- Standard of Excellence (Book 1 with CD)  
trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone
- The First Recorder Book  
Recorder

For Piano students, sheet music will be provided.

Books and recorders can also be purchased from:

- Amherst Music House 413-549-1728

For book purchases (at all three stores), it is best to call in advance to make sure that the book is in stock.

\* Please note: It is important to create time in your child's schedule (15-20 minutes per day) for practicing!

**Shutesbury Elementary School  
Instrumental Music Registration Form**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher and Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:	Trumpet	Trombone	Saxophone
	Clarinet	Flute	Recorder
	Piano	Drums	World Percussion

\* Individual lessons are generally taught for the first two trimesters, unless 2-3 students have a strong desire to have a lesson together. During the third trimester, larger group lessons are taught in preparation for performances at the end of the school year.

Individual Lesson \_\_\_\_\_ Group Lesson \_\_\_\_\_

- if only one student signs up for a group lesson, he/she will be placed in an individual lesson

Beginning Study \_\_\_\_\_ Continuing Study \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*There is a \$40.00 instrumental music fee this year. Please include with this form. Scholarships are available by calling Jackie Mendonsa at the school or by emailing her at [mendonsaj@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:mendonsaj@shutesburyschool.org)

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Bender at:  
[brianbendermusic@hotmail.com](mailto:brianbendermusic@hotmail.com)