



May 11, 2006

To: Board of Education
From: Art Rainwater
Subject: Private Lessons for Band and Orchestra

Question: How many students who are currently in band and orchestra at the high school had private lessons before ninth grade?

Response: This is very difficult information to obtain without doing individual surveys of students. We asked each orchestra conductor and band director to provide a "best guess" estimate.

Band – very few students have had private lessons before ninth grade. Some students take private lessons after ninth grade. The highest estimate was 15%-20%. This does not include private piano lessons since the director has no way to know this information.

Orchestra – The number of private lessons is higher for orchestra. The numbers range from about 10 students to 40% of the orchestra. This does not include private piano lessons since the director has no way to know this information.