

Dear St. Alphonsus families,

Welcome back for another school year! Gateway Organization Milwaukee, a local non-profit organization, is happy to return to St. Alphonsus with our ever-popular Band and Orchestra Program. Students who sign up for music lessons will receive:

- A 20-minute private lesson once a week for 30 weeks throughout the school year. Private lessons are scheduled during the school day and rotate weekly so students do not miss the same 20-minute block of time each week. **If your child has a class that they cannot miss please communicate this to their band or orchestra teacher at the time of registration.**
- A weekly 45-minute group class, either before or after school.
- The opportunity to perform at various school functions throughout the year.

Please note that private lesson and group class availability is dependent on enrollment.

Orchestra lessons (violin, viola, cello, and double bass) are available to students grades 3-8. Band lessons (flute, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium/baritone, and percussion) are available to students grades 4-8.

The cost of lessons is \$520 for the school year. Three payment plan options are available: Yearly, Semesterly, and Monthly. It is expected that students who sign up for lessons will commit to participating for the entire school year. Payments can be made in the following ways:

- Cash or check made out to **GoMKE, Inc.** given directly to your child's band or orchestra teacher
- Via Zelle to gomke414@gmail.com
- Via PayPal to gomke414@gmail.com - please note that payments via PayPal will require an additional 4% fee

For the 2026-2027 school year partial scholarships will be available to students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. If you qualify for a scholarship and are interested in applying for one please indicate as such on the online registration form. **A scholarship application will be emailed to you and will be due by Friday, September 4.** If you do not qualify for Free and Reduced Meals but will need a tuition discount in order for your child to participate in music lessons please email molly.c.lieberman@gmail.com.

In any given year between 40-70% of our students rely on a partial or full tuition scholarship in order to participate in music lessons. If your family, friends, or employer are interested in helping us in our fundraising efforts please get in touch!

Online registration is available via the links below. **Registration is due by Wednesday, September 2.**

- Orchestra registration: <https://forms.gle/rsXgWV1xUny7UDGq5>
- Band registration: <https://forms.gle/mfdZoeSztK3zymKc7>

Lessons will begin the week of September 14. Tuition, either full or the first installment, is due at or before the first lesson. Your child's band or orchestra teacher will be in contact after September 7 with lesson schedules and payment information.

Band students will need an instrument and a music stand. Your child's band teacher will be in contact with which book(s) they will need as soon as possible after registration. Returning students should bring all of their old books to their first lesson.

Orchestra students will need an instrument. **Please note that orchestra students need to be sized for their instrument. Please take your child with you to rent a string instrument so they can be properly sized.** New orchestra students will need different books depending on their grade in school - your child's orchestra teacher will be in contact with which book(s) they will need as soon as possible after registration. Returning students should bring all of their old books to their first lesson.

Rental instruments are available at several music stores throughout Milwaukee, including:

- White House of Music (online rentals and school delivery are available at <https://whitehouseofmusic.com/musical-instrument-rental/>)
- Korinthian Violins (<http://www.korinthianviolins.com/>) - violins and violas only!
- Brass Bell Music store (<https://www.brassbellmusic.com/>)

A limited number of scholarship instruments are available for rental through GoMKE for \$50 for the school year.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to continue to teach as part of your school community. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

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