

First Players



Welcome to First Players!

First Players is a secular band program that began in 2000 and is based at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester. Most students are in the 4th-8th grades. We have a **Beginning Band** (4th & 5th grade) and a **Concert Band** for more experienced players. Each band rehearses weekly and works on a variety of music throughout the school year.

Testimonials

First Players has been wonderful for my son. I appreciate the early start he was able to get in band in the 4th grade rather than having to wait until the 6th grade in school. Ms. Janine is incredibly patient, and she brings so much enthusiasm each week. She is a talented jazz musician, and the kids love the opportunity to learn this style of music from an expert!

~ **A.S.**, parent

I joined the First Players in the sixth grade mainly to improve my ability to play music. Then I stayed for the fun music, great friends, and fun atmosphere of the group. The highlight of being a First Player definitely is the band camp, where you will play some of the best songs the group has to offer that year.

~ **G.D.**, high school drum major

My first instrumental music experience was with First Players, and from the very beginning, I was challenged to strive for musical excellence. That is a quality that has served me well as I have grown older - I would be a very different musician today if I didn't get that positive start with First Players.

~ **M.P.**, college music major

My kids have loved participating in First Players Band! It is a fun, welcoming and creative community to make music with!

~ **D.F.**, parent

I've been in First Players for two years and it's been a wonderful experience. It's amazing working together to make music with other students, and always gives me something to work towards while practicing! I definitely wouldn't have stayed with playing the clarinet this long if not for First Players.

~ **H.F.**, 8th grade

First Players

Band Program for grades 4+



Let's make music!

Watch your child's musical abilities develop with our comprehensive programming: one full band rehearsal per week for each band, band lessons for Beginning Band members, music, **First Players** T-shirt and summer band camp.

Beginning Band

Tuition for Beginning Band is \$240/year.*

This fee includes:

- a 20-minute lesson every week
- a weekly 45-minute band rehearsal
- lesson book and band materials
- First Players t-shirt
- performance at 2 formal concerts at FPC
- participation (optional) at our weeklong Summer Band Camp (M-F mornings at FPC)

Concert Band

Tuition for Concert Band is \$165/year*. This fee includes:

- a weekly 75-minute band rehearsal
- band materials
- First Players t-shirt
- performance at 2 formal concerts at FPC
- performances at other venues (Honkers baseball games, Festival of Trees, Senior living communities, etc.)
- participation (optional) at our weeklong Summer Band Camp (M-F mornings at FPC)

**Members of First Presbyterian Church in Rochester pay a \$35 materials fee and no tuition.*



How do I get started?

First Players has an annual **Meet the Instrument** night where students are introduced to many band instruments, the First Players program, instrument rental opportunities. MusicMart and Schmitt Music can provide rental and other information about purchasing instruments. We recommend renting or purchasing only through a qualified music store. Instruments sold at major retailers are not of good quality. All woodwind, brass and percussion instruments are welcomed. However, we strive to have balanced instrumentation.

Choosing an instrument

Instrument selection must be made before the first lesson, and ideally is made before registration.

Registration

Registration materials can be obtained by emailing **Janine Yanisch** at fpcffirstplayers@gmail.com.

About our conductor

Janine Yanisch has been a music educator for over 35 years and has extensive experience working with middle-school-aged band students. She has taught in public and private schools in MN, WI and NY, and maintains an active saxophone studio, in addition to performing periodically with local ensembles.

Other information

First Presbyterian Church

512 3rd St. SW

Rochester, MN 55902

507-282-1618

For registration materials and questions, email Janine Yanisch at fpcffirstplayers@gmail.com.

