

## Studio Policies

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### My responsibility

I will do my best to treat every student as an individual, providing a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere for learning. Please bear in mind that no two students are exactly alike, and children (as well as adults) learn at different rates of speed. Even brothers and sisters within families differ radically in motivation and temperament. Therefore, I approach students as individuals and attempt to challenge each according to their own unique potential. **Music is not easy, and may not always be "fun"**. But, given sufficient time and structured practice, the rewards are huge! You are providing your child with the tools for a lifetime of musical appreciation and enjoyment.

### Student and Family Responsibilities

Students agree to arrive at each lesson punctually, well-prepared, and with their assignment books and music (and, ideally, a recording device).

To make good progress, daily quality practice is necessary. I want the students to completely understand every assignment; please ask questions. **Please** look at your child's assignment book and help them focus on what it is they need to be practicing. There are always more and less favorite pieces, so encouragement is often necessary. You can't expect your child to know how to practice, or to always have the self-discipline to do what is expected. **ROUTINE IS ESSENTIAL!** I reserve the right to terminate lessons if a student isn't practicing or continually misses lessons.

If something is happening at home or school that is affecting your child please let me know. Please err on the side of letting me know *more* so I can be sensitive to the needs of your child.

All students are encouraged to play at the recitals we have each year. Generally these have been held February and May. I'm planning on scheduling several 'JAMbores', which I envision as a 'jam session'/group lesson as well.

Students must have an acoustic piano or a keyboard with weighted keys at home. If you are just starting, a cheaper keyboard is fine for the first couple months, but once the decision is made to continue lessons you are doing your child a disservice by using a cheap keyboard! The same goes for stringed instruments: it's no fun to play an instrument that sounds bad, or is difficult to fret. All students must also have a working metronome with which to practice. (Apps can be OK, though they often are not very audible.) A recording device (iPhone, iTouch, iPad) can be extremely helpful, and they are encouraged to bring one to lessons.

## Commitment

With commitment to learning the art of music comes the decision to practice on a regular basis. This is the surest guarantee that your child will have consistent progress. Learning the necessary skills to become proficient will not occur simply by attending lessons. Parental support is an extremely important factor in musical training. Children whose parents take an **active and honest** interest in their child's progress tend to be more enthusiastic and productive. Parents are welcome to attend lessons at any time. I would like to have the opportunity to speak with each parent at least twice a year.

Below are the minimum practice time suggestions by age and level for modest achievement. The same goes for stringed instruments. **IT IS MUCH BETTER TO PLAY A LITTLE BIT EVERY DAY THAN TO 'CRAM' FOR A LESSON!** Students with higher expectations will practice a great deal more.

Early Elementary students – 75 min/week (this is 15 minutes a day, 5x a week)

Elementary students – 100 min/week (20 minutes a day, 5x a week)

Intermediate students – 150 min/week (30 minutes a day, 5x a week)

If a student comes to a lesson unprepared, the lesson time will be used for supervised practice and review, rather than to teach new concepts, skills, and repertoire. Obviously, students who habitually neglect to practice and do their assignments advance at a much slower rate.

I have thought long and hard about the many 'incentive' type practice systems some teachers set up for their students. In the end, at least at this point, I've decided not to set up a standardized system. I've spoken to several parents who agree with this. However, I am more than willing, if you feel that it works for your child's personality, to help with some guidelines to set up a more personal system for each child. It is very helpful for me to see the days that each student practices, for then I know, if they are consistent yet not making progress, that I may need to change something in the way I am teaching them. Please encourage them to keep track! Many parents have found success with home incentive programs.

## Tuition and fees

**Annual Fee: \$30**

Partially covers cost and time needed in preparation for:

- 1) Recitals and other performance opportunities
- 2) Cost and time needed to stay current with technology trends, apps, etc.
- 3) Books, downloads, and miscellaneous expenses

If books alone come to greater than \$30, additional charges may occur.

Lessons cost \$40-50 for one-hour lessons (45 minutes private instruction and 15 minutes of Music Tech Time). Some circumstances (group, very young children) may be different.

**Fall Session:** September 5-December 16      12 lessons    \$480  
(13 weeks total: one free, one JAMBoree)

**Winter/Spring Session:** January 2 - June 9      20 lessons    \$800  
(21 weeks total: one free, two JAMBorees)

Each session includes a certain number of lesson weeks, however, the session RATE includes ONE FREE lesson. Therefore if a lesson is missed due to illness or vacation, there is no charge for that lesson. If you do not miss any lessons during the session, you score a bonus with one FREE lesson. If scheduling allows, a make-up lesson may be accommodated; however, there is no guarantee, nor credit given. Parents who opt to be on the email swap list are welcome to arrange swaps, provided I am given adequate notice that a change will be occurring.

Payment can be as follows:

- 1) Payment in Full, due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the first month of each session. Those who pay in full receive one free book or music download each session.
- 2) Payments may be made in THREE equal installments per session due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

As I transition to this system (during school year 2016/2017), credit will of course be given for past payments, or accounts in arrears will be added to the session total.

After the first lesson, or at anytime, a two-week notice is required if the student no longer wishes to continue lessons. A \$50 fee will be charged if lessons are discontinued during a session. If a child continually misses lessons, or must cancel for numerous weeks in a row, I reserve the right to terminate their instruction.

All that said, **THANK YOU!!!!** I deeply appreciate the opportunity to teach music, and to share my love for something that is so universal and meaningful.

I have read and understand all of the above.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (parent)      Date \_\_\_\_\_