

Student Parent Handbook

Encourage

We want you to have the best time making music. Remember this is the beginning of something new. It takes time and patience to develop the habit of creating music. Here are a few ideas to help you make this a success:

- Remember to *practice*. Start 5 minutes at a time and gradually increase practice length as it begins to be part of the routine. Eventually work up to 5-6 days of 15-30 minute sessions.
- Always *show up* to lessons even if you haven't practiced. There is much to do at lessons including theory, sight read, rhythm exercises, note recognition, scales etc.... (The list of things to do is ridiculously long.)
- *Participate!* There are many chances to perform in a group setting with recitals, Musiclink, State and National music events. We even encourage our students to bring a friend to their lessons on occasion. Everything is more fun with a friend! Plus, your friend can maybe learn a thing or two!
- *Communicate* any thoughts or concerns with your teacher. If you think you are going to quit- ALWAYS talk to the teacher first. We've been doing this long enough to know what will restart music studies. We have had many people who decided they were quitting but talked to their teacher first. Many of those students are now performers. Music professors in Universities, grade school or high school, in a really cool band, doing music for major labels like Warner's, Cruise ship entertainers, Attending Berkeley School of music. And, even students who continue to play for fun! Many of those same students are now bringing their own children or grand children to us for lessons!
- *Praise*, never criticize. We have had many years of studying Pedagogy (how to teach for student success.) We were taught 1 criticism will take 10 praises to reset.

Dropping Students Off

The student's lesson begins at their scheduled time. While we really like having all these talented students here, we can get pretty busy teaching others. Please pick your student up on time.☺

Please be sure not to drive away until you see the student go into the studio. On occasion, there has been a time mix up and the student ends up sitting outside until the driver picks them up. Brrrrrr.

Your lesson is an exact length of time. If you arrive late you will receive the remainder of time. We know it would be great to arrive anytime you want and still have the entire lesson time. Unfortunately, this doesn't work well with the students following.

Parents-Create Success Right From The Start!

Have a decent instrument. The better quality the instrument, the more likely the student will be to play it. Also, be sure the instrument is well taken care of.

Provide a practice space that is away from the TV, bowls of candy, Noisy riffraff, and game systems.

Light up the practice area. There's nothing worse than playing in a dark, dirty basement all alone.☹

Have a shelf to store the student's lesson materials on. We get a little crazy handing out lots and lots of music!

Check the studio calendar! There's nothing worse than arriving for your lesson all pumped up to play only to find that your teacher is on vacation.

We require some form of summer lessons. It is extremely important so that students will retain all the stuff we put into their heads! FYI-We can regale you with horror stories of students who didn't take summer lessons and seriously regressed. We can make a custom summer schedule we can all agree on.

Please give us a 24 hour notice if you can't make it. We will try to schedule a private or group makeup time. The lesson time has been specifically reserved for you. Lessons that are not cancelled in advance do not receive a makeup. *Exceptions for illness*

While we never want you to-if you have to quit for some reason, please give us a 30 day courtesy notice. We are self-employed and as unusual as it may be, this is our JOB. Imagine going to your office job or some sort of work environment and the boss says: "you don't work here anymore." The notice helps us to prepare for the loss & we appreciate the notice.

Tuition fee varies depending on the length of lesson and the class (or classes) you are signing up for. Since this is our job-Please pay your tuition on the first of the month (or by the first lesson of the month.) There is a late fee of \$5 per week if tuition is not paid on time. We do offer discounts if you pay bi-annually or annually.

Students Here's How To Succeed

Remember to practice.

Set a short and long term goal. For example: In 30 days I will learn 900 songs. In 3 months I'll be sharing the stage with Beyonce (or insert your favorite musician.) Maybe start a bit smaller.☺ The point is- A goal will give you something to work towards and it increases your productivity and over time, you will succeed!

It is EXTREMELY important to take as many summer lessons as you can. This is so you don't forget everything! We've seen it happen-that's why we require summer sessions. We can work together to come up with a plan that works for both of us.

Try not to bring cell phones, game systems, roller skates etc. We may step on them or the teacher may keep them to play ourselves!

Have fun at your lesson! Talk to your teacher we LOVE to hear what you think. You guys are our only form of entertainment!!

Teachers plan of attack

We may take photos or record excellent performances by our students. We get to keep them because we're proud of our students.

We will do everything humanely possible to make more music makers!

We will teach you things you really want to learn as well as everything you need to learn to become an awesome musician.

We will give you a calendar specific to which instructor you are with.

We ask our students to text or call us with questions during the week if they need clarification. Sometimes we are more accessible by text.