



# Studio Policies

Effective starting July 29, 2023

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*Learning to play a stringed instrument provides many benefits including coordination, musical knowledge, fine motor skills, self-discipline, goal-setting, accountability, and a joyful outlet from other daily activities.*

*Please read on for a few guidelines for our time together.*

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## Commitment

Learning to play a string instrument takes time, dedication, patience, planning and persistence. When you sign up for lessons, it is required that you commit to the entire school year (end of July until the end of May) so that we can determine your goals, develop a consistent home practice plan, and have time to allow for progress in your technique and musical skills.

## Instruments

It is important that we find the right instrument and/or rental situation for you.

If your child is a young beginner ages 3-7, we will begin our lessons on a "foam-a-lin" or "foam-a-la" which will allow your child to develop the coordination and appreciation needed before acquiring a real instrument.

If you/your child are an older beginner, we can discuss possible instrument options. Please speak with me before you acquire an instrument as not only is size a necessary factor but also quality. There are recommended music stores on my website under "resources."

## Private Lessons

Your private lesson time is ALL YOURS! It gives us time to focus on your specific technical and musical needs. Private lessons are scheduled weekly. To make this time optimal please:

- ./ For in person lessons, arrive at least 5 minutes early to give yourself time to wash your hands, unpack and mentally prepare for our time together.
- ./ Take notes for yourself or your child so you have a record of what needs to be practiced at home during the week.
- ./ If you are a parent, it can be tempting to instruct your child during the lesson time but please allow me to be only teacher during the lesson time; if the child is given multiple directions at once it can be confusing for the child.

## On Practicing ...

To play well, we must learn how to practice effectively and efficiently. Everyone enjoys playing through old pieces they've learned and playing together in group class or with friends. Playing through our pieces is important, but before we can have a successful playthrough, we need to learn how to practice our pieces until they are "polished." Practice is the work part of developing technique on the instrument. When we practice, we focus on specific challenges of a piece and work through them with specific methods of repetition. Here are a few tips to help set up your home practice time:

- ./ You'll see the best results from practice if it is consistent so plan to practice your instrument 4 -6 days each week and at the same time each day if possible (I HIGHLY recommend mornings when the brain and body are most alert).
- ./ Have a specific "practice area" in your house free from distractions
- ./ Leave your practice materials out if possible (just books etc. but not your instrument)
- ./ Establish your goals for each practice session and for the week before you take out your instrument

## Group Class Lessons

Group class learning is another valuable component of your child's music education. Group classes occur once each month (August through May) and are required for all students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Teen Group Classes (students in 7<sup>th</sup> grader or higher) are optional but highly encouraged. The benefits of any group class/ensemble include:

- ./ review of posture points and reinforcement of learned techniques
- ./ learning/strengthening ensemble skills
- ./ developing musicianship
- ./ learning how to cooperate with other
- ./ introduction to future repertoire or new repertoire or new genres of music
- ./ introduction to new techniques
- ./ enjoying the company of new friends
- ./ being motivated by the musical environment

## Performances:

Recitals occur twice a year (Oct/Nov & April/May). All students are expected to perform a polished piece. Any Suzuki students who have successfully polished either the Twinkles or an entire Repertoire Book may perform their very own Graduation Recital. Any seniors graduating from high school should expect to also prepare for their very own Senior Recital. Details posted in early September/October and February/March

## About YouTube:

As your teacher and mentor, we are working together to develop skills. Please be patient as we work through different techniques and pieces as there is a "method to my madness." Although YouTube can be a great resource, it is not advised to use it to "get ahead" of what we are doing. It's often the case that we don't know who "those people" are on YouTube posting videos - they could be using different techniques, fingerings or bowings than those that I wish to teach you. YIKES! In addition, it is more work to undo "bad" technique than to learn it correctly the first time. If you ever have any doubts or questions regarding the lesson material, please email or call me or text me during the week and I will be happy to answer. I am happy to send you links of appropriate YouTube videos which can help you.

## Resources:

You'll find a list of websites, apps, & literature [on my website](#) under RESOURCES

## Miscellaneous

- ./ Please make sure the student's nails are trimmed regularly (long nails inhibit proper playing)
- ./ Please wash your hands before you come in for your lesson & before you practice your instrument at home
- ./ Avoid putting lotion on your hands before you touch your instrument
- ./ If during the week your instrument gets broken or damaged somehow, please contact me immediately so I can advise you on what to do
- ./ All students are able to be observed by other students at any time
- ./ If you are sick but still feel like a lesson, please Facetime or Zoom me. If you think attend the lesson but feel mildly sick, please wear a mask during our lesson time (I do have boxes of masks in the studio)

## Tuition and Scheduling:

I'm delighted to continue my public school orchestra teaching position in a part-time capacity this school year which will open up additional private teaching times for you! As much as possible, I plan several months in advance for the private lesson schedule and studio events to help keep things organized. It is helpful if all my families can look over the studio calendar and their home calendars for the upcoming Quarter. Planning out for your lessons will help me to create optimal lesson plans for our time together.

In addition:

- Private lessons & studio events will be listed on the Studio Calendar on Duet Partner ([www.duetpartner.com](http://www.duetpartner.com)).
- Private lessons are scheduled on a quarterly basis. There are 9-10 weeks in each quarter but each student is paying for/committing to 7 lessons during the Quarter time frame. Please note that for everyone's sanity 😊 I will try to maintain the same weekly private lesson schedule for the entire school year if possible.

- If you need to miss a lesson/reschedule a lesson, **AT LEAST A FULL 24 hours** advanced notice is required (unless you have an emergency or last minute sickness). Please remember we can always do a virtual lesson if needed. Please reserve virtual lessons in cases of sicknesses or family emergencies.
- Except for an emergency or last minute sickness, any missed lesson without 24 hours notice will count as one of your 7 lessons for that quarter.
- There are no time adjustments if you are late for your lesson time.
- If you need to reschedule your lessons, Open Lesson times will be found on the calendar of Duet Partner. Your 7 lessons for each quarter must be scheduled within that quarter (we start over each quarter.)
- If you would like to take additional lessons beyond the 7 lessons or take lessons during the school intersessions, these lessons can be scheduled & paid “a la carte.”
- Quarterly Tuition Payments are **due by your first lesson of the quarter**. Quarterly tuition can be broken into multiple payments if needed. Please speak to me individually if this is the case.
- June and July are “Summer Lessons” and are offered “a la carte.”

*\*\* Please note: rates subject to change each school year*

*\*\* Late fees are implemented 3 days after tuition is due*

*\*\* **There are NO Refunds, Lesson Credits or “Make-Up” Lessons***

*\*\* Unless in extreme circumstances, please give a minimum of 30 days written notice if you have reason to leave my studio.*

## ***Quarter Dates for 2024 - 25***

<i>Quarter 1</i>	<i>July 29 through Sept 27</i>
<i>Quarter 2</i>	<i>Oct 7 through Tues, Dec 17</i>
<i>Quarter 3</i>	<i>Jan 6 through March 8</i>
<i>Quarter 4</i>	<i>March 24 through May 29</i>
<i>Summer Lessons</i>	<i>June &amp; July</i>

## **TUITION RATES (effective July 29, 2024)**

	Quarterly Tuition (with discounted group class tuition)	Quarterly Tuition (does not include group class tuition)	A La Carte Lessons
<b>Requirements:</b>	<i>commitment for an entire 9 week quarter (end of July to end of May)</i>	<i>commitment for an entire 9 week quarter (end of July to end of May)</i>	<i>All Lessons in June &amp; July  Any Lessons over the 7 each quarter</i>
<b>Includes:</b>	<i>7 lessons/quarter  Discounted Group Class Tuition (2 classes/quarter at \$12/class)  Recital Fees  Reserved weekly lesson time</i>	<i>7 lessons/quarter  No Group Class Tuition (can be added/occurrence)  Recital Fees  Reserved weekly lesson time</i>	<i>Please refer to your DuetPartner Webpage to view Open Lesson Times</i>
<b>Lesson Length</b>			
<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>\$280/Quarter</b>	<b>\$255/Quarter</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>45 minutes</b>	<b>\$400/Quarter</b>	<b>\$375/Quarter</b>	<b>\$52</b>
<b>60 minutes</b>	<b>\$525/Quarter</b>	<b>\$500/Quarter</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>Payment Due Date</b>	<i>First lesson of the Quarter</i>	<i>First Lesson of the Quarter</i>	<i>On the Lesson Day</i>
<b>Other Fees</b>			
<b>Group Class</b>	<i>Included in quarterly fee</i>	<i>\$15/group class</i>	
<b>Late Fee</b> <i>(issued 3 days after due date)</i>	<i>\$5/quarter</i>	<i>\$5/quarter</i>	<i>\$5/payment due</i>
<b>New Student Registration Fee</b>	<i>\$25/one time Non-refundable, does not count toward tuition</i>	<i>\$25/one time Non-refundable, does not count toward tuition</i>	



**Private Lesson Policies Agreement 2024-25**

***Please sign & return this page to Dr. Samara Humbert-Hughes by July 1, 2024 to hold your spot in my studio.***

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Please check which rate package appropriate for you/your student:

Student No. 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Length: \_\_\_\_\_ mins.

\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Lessons + Groups      \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Lessons Only

*(please note: all Elementary Students (K-6) are required to be in group class)*

Student No. 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Length: \_\_\_\_\_ mins.

\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Lessons + Groups      \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Lessons Only

*(please note: all Elementary Students (K-6) are required to be in group class)*

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**Electronic signatures are accepted.**

*I have read and understand Samara’s Studio for Strings, LLC Lesson Policies and agree to uphold our commitment toward private lessons and group class time. Furthermore, we hereby release & discharge Samara’s Studio for Strings, LLC (and its members) from any physical injury that may occur by our (see student names above) voluntary participation in all studio activities.*

Parent/Guardian Name (must be 18 years or older) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date