

Meadowbrook Music Studio Policy

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Expectations for Students and Parents

Most importantly: students are expected to **practice** five to six days a week. Consistency is more important than duration of practice! Find a time of day that works for your child to practice every day and make it a habit. The better the practice habit, the more rewarding of an experience lessons will be! The lesson time in and of itself is not sufficient to make progress, and consistent failure to practice may result in termination of lessons. Parents should supervise the student's practice to the degree necessary for their child. For students under 8, this most likely means practicing with the child.

Parents are responsible for **purchasing lesson materials**. I will send links for the necessary books by email.

Parents will need to **purchase or rent an appropriate instrument** on which the child can practice at home prior to the start of lessons. The minimum requirement is a weighted, 88-key digital keyboard, with a stand, bench, and damper pedal. The ideal situation is playing on an acoustic instrument from the beginning. If you start on a keyboard, I would recommend transitioning to an acoustic piano within two years. Very young students will need a pedal extender to be positioned correctly and to develop their pedal technique.

Lesson Scheduling and Tuition

I offer 30, 45, or 60 minute lessons in my home studio, with 46 lessons per year. During the school year, the student will have a regular weekly spot. Scheduling is flexible over the summer. Scheduling and billing is done through [Fons](#) studio management software exclusively. I do not accept cash, check, Venmo, Paypal, or Zelle for tax reasons and to minimize administrative work—I want to spend my time and energy on teaching great lessons!

My rate is \$100 per hour. Billing is done through 12 equal monthly payments, calculated by multiplying the lesson length by 46 and dividing by 12. Fons has an autopay option. If payment is received more than 30 days late, a \$40 late fee will be added.

If you need to cancel a lesson, **I will offer a makeup spot if at least 24 hours notice is given**. The only exception is for illness. Unlike most studios, I do not cap the number of makeups but ask that you use this flexibility only for important school conflicts, medical appointments, family emergencies etc. Consistency in lesson time is also an important part of the routine that ensures optimal progress.

I am happy to teach during holiday weeks and rarely reschedule for personal reasons, but I am an active performer and so will periodically have to reschedule lessons for rehearsals and performances. If I have control over the schedule, I will work around weekly recurring lessons times to minimize rescheduling. If I don't have control over the schedule, I will give you a heads up as soon as I know the schedule. Sometimes this is months in advance, and unfortunately sometimes only the night before (in the case of opera companies, for example).

Recitals

All students (except adults) are **required to perform in at least one recital per semester**. Music performed should be memorized, except for chamber music and adult students. Students are encouraged to perform as much as possible, at all stages of preparation. Performing is a skill—regular “practice” of performing along with good preparation are both needed for success! Monthly studio classes will be offered once a month in a weekend time to be determined.

Please do not cancel your lesson in the two weeks before a recital or exam, to ensure the student is adequately prepared and will have a positive experience. For students who are particularly motivated, higher-level performance opportunities are available such as Royal Conservatory of Music Exams and competitions.

Termination of Lessons

Should the student and parents decide to terminate lessons, the studio requires at least two weeks of notice in writing. If I need to terminate lessons, I will provide at least two weeks of notice in writing. Reasons for termination include failure to pay for lessons in full and in a timely fashion, inappropriate behavior from students, parents, or other people present in the teaching environment, extreme inconsistency in attending or practicing for lessons, or schedule overload or redistribution. If we need to part ways, I will recommend an appropriate teacher with which the students can continue his or her studies.