

Dear Students and Parents:

I'm looking forward to a great Fall Term with all of you! Here are a few important updates and items of noteworthiness:

Fall Term begins September 8 and goes through the second week in December.

Lesson Days will continue to be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mondays will continue to be at my home, Tuesdays will continue at Beaverton Music, and Wednesdays will either be at Aloha Music or at my home. Makeup times for missed lessons may be scheduled on Thursdays.

Lesson Times: If you would like to change your lesson time for Fall Term, please let me know as soon as possible so we can set a schedule that works for everybody.

Lesson Tuition will stay the same at \$120/month or \$360 per Term. There are a few important notes you should read about the tuition policy (see below).

Homework: Students who enroll in private music lessons with me (or any other private music teacher) should consider daily practice/listening sessions to be just as important as any other homework. I only get to see you once a week, but the practice homework I assign should be done every day if you want to see signs of improvement as a musician. You should view lessons as your weekly opportunity to add new skills and build on the work you've already done; spending time practicing at home is an important part of that process. Lessons are not meant to be "practice sessions"; your practice sessions should be taking place the other 6 days of the week at home.

Listening Assignments: Every Student is required to listen to at least 1 live performance per Term. Performances must be by professional musicians (not student groups). Students are also required to listen to at least 12 examples of recorded music highlighting a soloist on your instrument of choice.

Student Of The Month: A new incentive program I'm starting: Every month, I will choose to reward the student who has shown the most improvement over that month. Notice this is not necessarily about who is "the best". All students of all levels are eligible to win this award if they work hard. The Student Of The Month award will go to the student who has shown the highest amount of dedication to working toward his/her goals and who has shown the most solid improvement as a musician over the course of that month.

Recital/Performance opportunities: I will be planning a student recital sometime toward the end of Fall Term. Students of all levels are encouraged to participate. More details to come.

Credit Cards: For your added convenience, I am now partnering with T-sys to be able to accept credit cards for lesson payments.

Important Tuition Policy Clarification

A little over a year ago I changed my policy to a monthly tuition payment instead of billing per lesson. It was my hope that this would not only simplify the billing/payment process, but would also discourage students from missing too many lessons in a month. Most students and parents have been very receptive to this change and see it as a good thing.

This letter serves to clarify my exact policy regarding attendance, missed lessons, makeup lessons etc.

1. Lesson tuition is billed on a monthly basis. It is the same amount every month. No exceptions. Your tuition pays for a specific regular time slot to be reserved in my schedule once a week. It also helps me keep and maintain my home office and pays for the rental of studio space at Beaverton Music and Aloha Music. These expenses exist whether you show up to your lesson or not; I cannot afford to charge less per month if you do not use the time you are paying for.
2. If you need to miss a lesson due to a planned absence (family trip, band camp, etc) I need to know at least two weeks in advance in order to schedule a makeup lesson. If less than two weeks notice I cannot guarantee we'll be able to schedule a makeup time. I am incredibly busy especially during the fall and winter months and scheduling makeup lessons is often difficult. Please therefore try to keep your absences to a minimum.
3. If you would like to suspend lessons and payment for a number of weeks, I need to know at the beginning of the month for all of the weeks you will miss; we can suspend payment in those cases and I will try to preserve your weekly time.
4. I am a working professional musician and sometimes I am required to perform or rehearse during regular lesson times. If I have to miss your lesson time due to a rehearsal, concert or performance, I will make every effort to rearrange my schedule to try to make sure we still are able to get at least 12 lessons in a term. Attending my concert or performance is also an option towards making up missed lessons.
5. In the past, some students have asked me to give longer lessons to make up the time from a missed lesson (for example doing two 45-minute lessons to make up for missing one 30-minute lesson the week before.) I have experimented with this but have concluded that this is not always a productive use of our time, and in any case it is not a substitute for skipping a weekly lesson, so I will no longer be extending lesson time as a substitute for missing a weekly lesson.

Parents: If you are concerned with getting your money's worth out of lessons, Please help to make sure your son/daughter is putting in the required amount of practice time daily. Daily consistent practice is a far better way to get your money's worth from lessons, instead of counting the minutes of weekly lesson time per month.