

The Winslow School of Music

STUDIO POLICIES

2017-18

Megan Winslow, NCTM

Norman, OK 73069

405.517.2126

megan@winslowschoolofmusic.com • www.winslowschoolofmusic.com

www.facebook.com/winslowschoolofmusic

Oklahoma Certified Teacher of Piano and Flute • Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Supplies

A Student Binder will be provided in your first lesson. It is yours to keep and will include everything you need to succeed. Please bring your binder and all materials to every lesson. Transfer students should bring all previously studied material (books, assignments, notebooks etc.) to your first lesson. You can expect to spend around \$20-30 on books and other materials per year, depending on quickly you are progressing through the material.

Tuition

A commitment should be made for the full school year (September- May). It takes at least this long to truly get a well-informed opinion of the instrument and to discover whether or not it's right for you. If you feel that your progress is not what you expected or you feel that you are losing interest, please let me know so that we can put our heads together and figure out a solution. **Refunds are not available. Rates may be adjusted annually.** See the studio website for specific due dates.

Fall/Spring Semester Tuition (33 weeks total): \$1100/year

45 minute weekly lessons- 26 private/ 7 group

Summer Semester Tuition (7 weeks): \$250/summer

45 minute weekly lessons (all private lessons- no group)

Summer Camps: \$100 each

Sight Reading Summer Camp (required for students who plan to return in the fall)

Review Camp (required for students who plan to return in the fall)

Discounts:

Family Discount: 1 Materials Fee will be waived

Summer Discount: students enrolled in private lessons over the summer receive a \$25 credit toward each required camp.

- ♪ A **\$10 late fee** will be added to any tuition received after the due date. See the studio website for tuition due dates.
- ♪ You may pay by cash, check or online (2.9% convenience fee). Checks may be made payable to: **The Winslow School of Music.**

Make Up Policy

♪ It is your responsibility to show up for your lessons regularly and on time with ALL of your materials. Being too early or late will disrupt the lesson before or after you. I adhere strictly to the studio schedule and hope you will too. **Please contact me if you're running late!**

♪ **1 Make-up lesson** will be allowed per semester due to illness or family emergency. Students who have had a fever at any point during the day of their lesson are asked to stay home and schedule a make-up lesson as soon as the student is well. Lessons missed due to conflicts OTHER than illness or emergency will not be made up (vacation, scheduling conflicts etc.). And lessons missed without prior notice will not be made up. Please schedule make-up lessons in a timely manner, avoiding waiting until the end of the semester, as make-up lesson times start to become limited. Since the schedule is usually full, make-up lessons are only available when another spot becomes available and are **not guaranteed**. If a student misses a scheduled make up lesson, the lesson is forfeited.

♪ In the event of inclement weather, the studio will follow the Norman Public School's decision involving closings and a make-up lesson will be scheduled at the teacher's discretion. The make-up lesson will be offered in the form of a private OR group lesson.

♪ My students are among my top priorities and it is very important to me to keep our weekly, scheduled lesson time, but in the event that I'm unable to teach, you will be notified as soon as possible to get your lesson rescheduled.

Communication

The Winslow School of Music website (www.winslowschoolofmusic.com) is kept up-to-date so please check it regularly for upcoming events, calendar questions etc. You can find the answer to almost any question in your signed copy of the Studio Policies, in the printed Studio Calendar (in Student Binder), on the website or on the Studio Facebook page (www.facebook.com/winslowschoolofmusic). And, of course, phone calls, texts and emails are welcomed too!

Studio Opportunities

🎵 **Recitals:**

Every student will have the opportunity to WOW their friends and family with their newly discovered talents and skills. The Annual Christmas Party (informal) and Spring Recital (formal) dates will be determined as the location becomes available.

🎵 **Mini Recitals:**

Mini Recitals are a great chance for a young performer to mature into an experienced performer. As the student commits finished pieces to memory, they're added to a memory list. Once the student reaches 10 pieces, they choose their favorite 7 pieces to perform, by memory, for an audience of their choosing. The student will gain experience as they help prepare for their recital by choosing the performance order, inviting the audience and running the recital. Medals are awarded for each completed mini recital. After 6 successful mini recitals, the student is ready to perform at a venue of his or her choosing. Coffee shops are one of the most popular!

🎵 **Group Lessons:**

Group lessons will be focused on performance, music theory work, ear-training work, sight-reading and ensemble work, functional skills and creative activities as well as rhythm and movement activities. Performance anxiety coping techniques, performance etiquette and other performance related information will also be covered. This is also a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know one another. Group lessons provide inspiration through peer performances, motivate students through healthy competition and promote enthusiasm and enjoyment as a result of sharing in ensemble work, rhythm drills and music games.

🎵 **Music Websites:**

These websites allow all WSM students to access fun music theory games in their own homes or in the Computer Lab. It is a unique and creative way to continue to develop and apply new concepts learned in lessons. Games will often be assigned during a lesson to work on at home.

🎵 **Piano Explorer Magazine/ Flute Talk Magazine:**

Each month, we focus on a different "Composer of the Month" found in the Piano Explorer Magazine. Students study their composer throughout the month and we discuss in greater depth in group lessons (held monthly). The Piano Explorer magazine is a wealth of knowledge and has fun games and tips. Have fun with this resource! You can also listen to recordings on their website at www.peforkids.com.

🎵 **OMTA/ NAMTA Events:**

In addition to recitals, students have the opportunity to perform in different events such as the OMTA District and State Achievement Auditions, NAMTA Fall Festival, NAMTA Mall Marathon, NAMTA Honors Concert, NAMTA Composition Festival/ Camp Scholarship Auditions and many others. Entry fees range from \$0-\$20. See the website for more details!

Practice Expectations

Your weekly private lesson is the first day of your practice week. Your assignment for the week (found in the front of your studio binder behind the "Assignments" tab) is to be practiced at home and presented at your next lesson. Try to spread your practice time out during the week. A practice schedule should be discussed and put on paper. Practicing 5 days per week is a good goal. A good beginner practice goal is to set two 30-minute lessons with yourself during the week and then fill in the other 3 days with whatever time you have available. Practicing doesn't have to happen only once a day. Take in a little bit at a time with a couple smaller practice sessions. You can get A LOT done in 15 minutes if you have a specific goal in mind and you allow yourself to practice efficiently. And remember, if you hit a snag, I'm just a phone call or text away. More advanced students should set goals to practice at least 30-45 minutes, 5 days a week. **HOW you practice is much more important than how long you practice.** Just remember to set manageable goals for each practice session to keep your practicing efficient and purposeful. Plan your work and work your plan!!

If practicing starts to consistently feel like a chore, it may be because you're not seeing the progress you're hoping for. Be sure to READ your assignment and follow the instructions, focus on improving something specific during each session, concentrate, and be patient with yourself. If you're consistently completing these steps, you should be seeing improvement EACH week. Enjoy your precious time at the piano and make sure all time spent is EFFECTIVE time spent.

GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICING

♪ **Keep track of ALL practice time!** This gives me an idea whether the student is having trouble with a piece or if he/she just neglected his/her practice that week. It also gives the student a realistic view of how much they've actually practiced versus how much they **feel** like they've practiced.

♪ **PIANO STUDENTS:** Students should have daily access to a well-tuned (at least once a year, preferably twice) acoustic piano or a touch-sensitive, full-sized keyboard with a pedal (acoustic is my preference, but an approved keyboard could last a beginning student for up to about a year).

♪ The practice area should be quiet with as few distractions as possible.

♪ Scheduled practice sessions should be on the family calendar and given as much respect as soccer practice, ballet rehearsal, homework etc. A practice schedule is an indispensable tool and is required. A schedule will be discussed during the student's first few lessons.

♪ Each practice session should begin with a review of the student's weekly assignment in their Student Binder as it serves as a step-by-step guide to weekly practice and learning (I don't write all that stuff down for nothin' folks)

Other

♪ REMEMBER TO KEEP THOSE FINGERNAILS TRIMMED (piano students only). It makes a drastic difference in hand position and overall control of the instrument. If nails are consistently neglected, the student will be asked to clip them during their lesson with the (sanitized) studio clippers.

♪ Keep hands clean and germ-free out of respect for the other students.

♪ Parents may drop off or wait for students in their vehicles, on the porch (weather permitting), or in the studio, as long as the student is not too distracted by the company.

♪ The studio restroom is available if necessary, but consistent trips to the restroom are an unproductive use of lesson time. Please try to use the restroom before coming to lessons if at all possible.

♪ Parking is available in the driveway (south of the house). Please pull as far forward as possible to allow for the next lesson to drop off or pick up as well. If there is no spot available, the street just north of the house has plenty of parking. **Please do not stop on Flood street or pull into the neighbors' driveways!!**

♪ **No gum or food in the studio, please! Thank you!!**

I have read and agree to the terms of The Winslow
School of Music Studio Policies and Procedures.

Parent Signature: _____

Print: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____