



2021 – 2022 Private Lesson Studio Policy

The investment made in a music education is invaluable. Colors instructors are experienced, dedicated musicians who teach, perform, direct and collaborate within the Huntsville community. A teacher's weekly lesson time with the student is only a portion of time invested in a student's education. Lesson planning, researching new music and methods, attending conferences and bookkeeping are all part of the time and attention created for each student. Colors instructors strive to give each student a strong and rewarding impression of the world of music. While recital performance isn't required, students experience musical and personal growth through goal setting - often the key to motivation.

REGISTRATION FOR PRIVATE LESSONS: All students enrolling in private lessons must pay the \$40 registration fee to the fine arts center prior to the first lesson. If a student discontinues lessons and tuition is not paid, the lesson time is made available to new students and re-registration (\$40) is required to return to lessons. Lesson times are not held for students not paying tuition.

TUITION: The payment is \$100-\$110 per month for a 30-minute lesson; \$150 -165 per month for a 45-minute lesson; \$200-220 for a 60-minute lesson. **The monthly total will always remain the same, regardless of the number of lessons in the month (this includes studio closings due to holidays – please see the calendar below).** Payments are due on the first lesson day of the month, paid directly to the instructor. **All payments not received prior to the 10th day of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.** Consistently late payments may result in a forfeiture of the allotted lesson time. Any check returned for insufficient funds will be charged a \$40 check fee, in addition to any late fees which may apply.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance to the lessons is crucial to the student's progress. All lessons missed due to teacher absence will be made up or refunded. **No make up lessons are offered for lessons missed due to student absences August - May.** During June and July, absences due to vacations, camps and other conflicts may be made up, provided the student has given at least 24 hours notice of the cancellation (if the student fails to show, the lesson and payment for the lesson are forfeited.) Students unable to attend their weekly lesson may contact their teacher for assignments to be completed before the next lesson.

2021 – 2022 CALENDAR: A list of closings and performance dates is listed below. Due to limited scheduling during the school year, teachers are unable to make up missed lessons for those who cannot attend their regularly scheduled lesson. If severe weather is forecasted, virtual lessons will be offered instead – this will be posted to our facebook page.

CALENDAR

Monday, September 6th - Closed Labor Day
Monday, October 4th – 10th – Closed for Fall Break
Saturday, Oct. 23rd - Fall Music Fest at Colors Fine Arts
Monday, November 22nd - 28th – Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Saturday, Dec. 4th - Winter Recitals at Cooper House
Tues. Dec. 21st – Sun. Jan. 2nd – Closed for Christmas Holidays (lessons resume Mon. Jan. 3rd)
Monday, March 14th – 20th – Closed for Spring Break
**TBA – May Spring Recitals*
Monday, May 30th – Closed Memorial Day
Monday, July 4th – Closed



*Participation in recitals is not mandatory and is at the instructor's discretion.



Follow Colors Fine Arts Center on facebook for important info on closings, news, etc.

Student Progress and Developing Practice Skills

While it would be far simpler if there were formulas for success (i.e. 1 weekly lesson + 4 hours of practice a week = 1 level of advancement every 10 months for a beginning student), this simply isn't the case. *Every teacher's* weekly direction and encouragement will include suggestions and assignments for practice. All teachers expect practice, which will lead to student progress. However, a teacher's requirements and suggestions can only go so far. It is ultimately up to the student and parent to follow through with consistent, beneficial practice. There is a direct relationship between the amount of practice time spent and the student's skill and rate of advancement. Establishing good practice habits begins with the parent and is carried on by the student as age and maturity permit. While every situation is unique, just as every student's schedule, activities and level of focus is unique, following through with the following most often leads to successful practice habits:

- Student access to a well-maintained, well-tuned instrument set up properly. Keyboards should be on a flat tabletop surface with a bench or chair at the proper height.
- The practice environment should be well-lit and distraction free.
- Students practice at least 4 days per week. Daily practice is ideal.
- Practice sessions should be long enough to allow for repetition of pieces/material, both new assignments and pieces from previous weeks.
- Students should always practice as soon after the week's lesson as possible. No longer than 1 day after, or new concepts/material covered will be too difficult to recall.
- Younger students may benefit from more frequent, shorter practice sessions and will need help while practicing.
- Students should bring all materials to each lesson and be prepared to listen and try their best.

Most students will balk when it's time to practice (it's work, after all), but once habits are in place, the practice *itself* will become motivational, as practice comes more easily and the student feels more accomplished. ***Every student progresses at his or her own pace, but all accomplished students have excellent practice habits.***

