



## Private Lesson Policies

### NEW Student Registration

A one-time nonrefundable registration fee of \$25 per family is assessed before lessons commence. The Registration Fee accompanied with a completed and signed Enrollment Form secures the student's ongoing lesson appointment. When beginning lessons, your lesson appointment can be reserved for a maximum of one month ahead, held with a nonrefundable deposit of your first month's tuition. Without this deposit, you risk losing your lesson slot to another student.

### Monthly Even-Pay Tuition

Monthly even-pay tuition rates are based on a 30-minute lesson given once per week in accordance with the instructors' academic calendar. Even-payment rates are figured by dividing the instructors' school-year tuition into equal monthly payments, based on the 10-month (August-May) academic year. (Summer tuition is additional, based on individual instructor/student plans for the summer.) Monthly even-pay tuition is due by the first lesson of each month, payable in cash, check, or credit/debit (in store, by phone, or via AutoPay). **Tuition payments are considered late when received after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and a \$15 Late Fee is accessed.** This fee is to help ensure instructors are paid in a timely manner and to avoid additional administrative expenses. Please write checks to: **The Harmony House**, memo: **Instructors' name/s**.

### Student Performance Opportunities

Students are expected to participate in at least two performance opportunities each year, as experience is the best source of confidence. Performance opportunities include our annual Sundaes on Saturday event, Scale-A-Thon, December Student Recitals, NFMC Festival Competition, Conservatory/Gold Cup/Senior Recital, Big Shanty Festival, and May Student Recitals. While most events are free, special events may carry a nominal participation fee per student or per family to cover costs associated with the event.

### Instructor's Schedule/Holidays

Private instructors establish their own schedule and calendar of teaching dates. Please check with your instructor or in our store for their schedule. It is recommended you place their schedule of teaching dates (including holidays) on your refrigerator and in your planner. No lessons will be granted and no make-up lessons honored during the holidays that The Harmony House is closed, as listed on our website: [www.theharmonyhouse.net](http://www.theharmonyhouse.net).

### Monthly Commitment

It is important to know that your instructor has made a commitment to you and your student for the academic year. Thus, instruction at The Harmony House is a month-to-month commitment (with no long-term contract). Tuition reimbursements are not given for unused regular or make-up lessons within the current month. Studio assignments may change over time, usually due to lengths of teaching blocks of our instructors or changing needs of our instructors and students. If, for any reason, you or your child would like to transition to another instructor, please notify a store associate to request a transfer. If, for any reason, you decide to discontinue lessons, please offer the instructor and student the opportunity to have "closure" and to say goodbye. Students and instructors often form a tight emotional connection, so closure is important. **There is no reimbursement for unused lessons in the month of termination**, therefore it is recommended that the student complete the month with his or her current instruction and transition in the subsequent month.

### Schedule Conflicts/Make-up Lessons

Please give the instructor a **24-hour notice** when canceling a lesson by calling them directly; this is considered an "excused absence." Lessons may be made up during a time that is agreeable to both parties, or two 45-minute lessons will be granted to make up for this absence. **Two** make-up lessons per semester are honored for the following reasons: illness, funeral, school performance/open house, or planned family vacation. No tuition reimbursement is granted for unused make-up lessons. Tuition must be current before makeup lessons will be honored. Make-up lessons do not carry over from one semester to the next. A **"no show"** is considered an unexcused absence. No make-up lesson will be offered and no credit is given for unexcused absences. Two consecutive "no shows" without communicating with your instructor may result in removal from the schedule without notice or refund of tuition. In the event of **instructor schedule conflict or illness**, the lesson may be made up at a time agreeable to both parties or two 45-minute lessons may be scheduled. If an instructor is unable to teach on any given day, an equally-qualified substitute may be put in place to teach, to avoid the need for scheduling make-up lessons. No make-up lessons are offered for a holiday (when The Harmony House is closed) and/or when the instructor has indicated the date is a holiday (see their academic calendar). **As the instructors handle their own teaching and make-up schedules, please consult your instructor's calendar and consult directly regarding the need for a make-up lesson.**

### Punctuality

To be fair to the time commitments of our instructors and their students/families, each lesson begins on time and ends on time. No extensions will be given or make-up lessons granted for students who are late for their lesson or group class.

## Lapse in Payments

A lapse in your monthly tuition payment forfeits your lesson time from being held for you. Thus, your lesson time will be opened up for another student on an ongoing basis. Please make plans to continue making your monthly payment(s) if you wish to take a break from lessons and still have your lesson time held for you upon your return.

## Summer Lessons

Students are to take a minimum of four (4) lessons throughout June/July in order to be guaranteed a lesson appointment in the fall (i.e., August). These lessons may be granted weekly, two days per week, or as double-length sessions if desired. With this arrangement, the tuition rate for June/July is the instructor's monthly flat rate, as students will be receiving four lessons throughout the summer term. (Students and instructors who travel internationally during the summer months are exempt from the above policy.) Summer instruction is encouraged as it further facilitates musical growth and provides better continuity of learning for students into the fall semester.

## Transition

The instructor reserves the right to terminate lessons for any reason, including (but not limited to) when a student is repeatedly unprepared for lessons. A student may be transitioned to another instructor, with the anticipation that a fresh start and a different approach will encourage preparedness.

## Instructor Commitment to Parent/Student

- A professional lesson experience will be offered so the student may reach his/her potential.
- Regular weekly lessons will be provided during pre-scheduled times.
- A 24-hour notice will be given in the event s/he cannot teach.

## Parent/Student Commitment to Instructor

- Attend weekly lessons, prepared for additional learning.
- Arrive on time and pack up promptly following the lesson.
- Bring proper materials (instrument, books, assignment book, pencils, etc.).
- Pay monthly tuition by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month; pay Late Fee if paying late.
- Give 24-hour notice of cancellation, except in the case of serious illness or other emergency.
- Practice and prepare for all recitals/events.

## Practice Time for Musical Growth

Proper preparation includes practice time. Reasonable expectations are:

Beginner: 15-20 minutes per day, 6 days per week (10-15 minutes daily if under age of 6)

Intermediate: 30-40 minutes per day, 6 days per week

Advanced: 45-60 minutes per day, 6 days per week

## Requirements for Musical Growth

- A quality instrument, well-tuned and maintained
- Piano/keyboard with full-size keys, with touch-sensitive or "weighted" keys and sustain pedal
- A metronome, for keeping even time while playing
- An assignment log (available in our store), to be checked off/signed
- A music bag to contain all needed materials (books, assignment booklet, pencils)
- A folding music stand for home practice of guitar, band, and orchestra instruments
- A room with proper lighting that is free from distractions (i.e., TV) during practice times
- A timer (practice daily, at the same time of day and for the same length of time)

## Student Safety

To ensure children are safe at all times, parents are encouraged to remain on site during the lesson (mandatory if child is age 9 or younger). Be sure your child has connected with the instructor before the lesson (do not drop off). The Harmony House staff cannot be held responsible for your child outside their lesson time, so please pick them up promptly following their lesson. Siblings should be under parental supervision at all times, as we cannot be held responsible for injuries or damages on our premises. To further ensure student safety, parents are welcome in the studios during your student's lessons.

## Thank You!

The Harmony House directors and staff would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to encourage your child musically. Our prayer is that God will bless your child's talents and that his/her gifts will be used by God to bring honor and glory to Himself, both now and in the future.

**Owner/Director:** Heidi Truitt ● heidi@theharmonyhouse.net ● (770) 422-0022