

2019-2020

Dear Oboe Student and Parent,

I'm so pleased that you have chosen to study oboe privately with me! Teaching is something that I greatly enjoy, and I believe that the private study of an instrument can be one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime.

The following is a list of tools and guidelines which should help you to receive the maximum benefits from our time together in lessons.

Please read this Studio Policy very carefully. At the end of the document, both student and parent will need to sign the agreement sheet and return it to me as soon as possible, and definitely before the first lesson of the school year. Let me know if you have questions, I am very happy to discuss them with you.

What To Bring

An **OBOE** in working condition. If you need a list of sources for rentals, first contact your child's band or orchestra conductor- otherwise I will be happy to provide resources. If you are considering purchasing an oboe, contact me for a list of recommendations. If your oboe is **NOT** in working condition (out of adjustment, cracked, etc.) or if you leave it at school, your lesson may be forfeited without a lesson credit. Two key oboe care items necessary to keeping your oboe mildly conditioned are a **SWAB** and **CORK GREASE**.

At least **TWO** working **OBOE REEDS**. Reeds are our voice as oboists, and a quality reed can be the difference between frustration and struggle and progress and enjoyment.

I am able to provide student reeds on a subscription-only basis. (Pay for your reeds for the month at the beginning of the month with lesson tuition) Oboe reeds are \$25 each and English horn reeds are \$30.

I am able to adjust commercial reeds to a certain point, however, if your reeds are simply at the point of needing to be replaced, I reserve the right to cancel the lesson and expect payment in full.

Examples include the following:

- Reeds that are dead to the point of playing extremely sharp
- Reeds that are cracked down the middle
- Reeds that I have recommend once before needed replacement
- Reeds that are too dead and closed to function and be responsive

You **MUST** have working reeds at your lessons, if you are having "Reed Issues" let's talk about it, and find a solution together. Students will need a water container to soak their reeds in. Some suitable ideas for these are; old prescription bottle, film canister, or Tupperware container.

MUSIC! Bring the music you are working on in school as well as any music you are interested in learning. At the first lesson I will prescribe a mandatory method book which corresponds with the student's age and skill level.

Middle School: Rubank Elementary or Intermediate Oboe Method and Pare Scales for Oboe

High School: Barret Oboe Method, David Hite Foundational Studies, Ferling 48 Famous Studies

PENCILS, to make markings in your music. A **METRANOME** and **TUNER** are also wonderful tools

which I strongly suggest that all students purchase if possible- these are available at any music store- again I am always willing to help you locate these items.

A **NOTEBOOK** is necessary in order to write down practice assignments and other important information. It can be any type, spiral bound or composition books work well.

Other helpful supplies include: Reed Making Kit, Oboe\English horn stand, Tuner\Metronome pick-up mic clip, Neck Strap, and Ribbon style reed case.

Double Reed Website Resources

www.mmimports.com

Ask for Steven, he is my friend and will know how better to help you! :) Music, Instruments (new and used) and reed making supplies

www.rdgwoodwinds.com

RDG woodwinds is a great source for double reed supplies, instruments, and repair work.

www.trevcomusic.com

A wonderful source for double reed sheet music- all method books will be available here

www.sheetmusicplus.com

I have created music lists here for middle school, high school, and college level material

Studio Expectations

Scheduling

It is expected that students be present for lessons at the appropriate, assigned time. Please be advised that all lessons are scheduled back to back, so if you are late to your scheduled lesson, there will not be an opportunity to make up the missed portion. If you are going to be more than 15 minutes late to a lesson, contact me by phone or text ASAP!

If you need to cancel your lesson for ANY reason, I require 24 hours advance notice.

Cancellations outside of that time frame will not be given a make-up lesson time, **without exception**.

Please consider that I am planning on your lesson in my busy weekly schedule which also includes performing, teaching 24 oboe students, and being a Mom. I cannot simply slide another student into your time slot if you aren't coming. It is time that I have set aside specifically, for you alone.

Students will be allotted **FOUR** make-up lessons for the school year (September-May). If I receive notification from you at least 24 hours in advance that you will be absent for your lesson, we will schedule a make-up lesson on the **LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**. Absences outside of the **FOUR** make-up lessons for the school year will not receive make-up lessons and other credit will not be offered.

Studio Etiquette

Parents

Our oboe studio is also my home. I do my best to create an environment that lends itself to focus, and concentrated learning. I welcome parents, especially if it is the first lesson for the student to come sit in the studio with us so that they can watch the work we do and get a window into the world of oboe.

I do ask that parents please minimize conversation and extraneous noises (ie: texting, music, etc.) I am happy to answer questions either before or after lessons as time allows.

Sickness

I love and appreciate you all, but if you are sick or if sickness is running through your household- please DO NOT come to your lesson. Please help us out by not coming over if you are sick!!! Contact me within 24 hours and we will utilize one of your FOUR make-up lessons. If you are not contagious and have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, we should be able to carry on as planned.

Lesson Payment

Lesson tuition should be paid on a monthly basis, at the first lesson of the month. If at the first lesson of the month, you are unable to pay lesson tuition, I will not be able to give you a lesson that day!

Payment can be made in the following ways: Cash, Check, or Venmo.

Monthly tuition is due at the first lesson of the month, without exception. A late fee of \$10 will be incurred for tuition payments not completed by the 10th of each month. If for example, you will not be present for your lesson during the first week of the month, please either make arrangements to pay for that month at the last lesson of the previous month, or please request a Venmo invoice from me.

Rates for 2019-2020 are as follows:

30 minute Private Lesson- \$160 per month/\$40 per lesson (6th and 7th grade or first two years of playing only!)

45 minute Private Lesson- \$200 per month/\$50 per lesson

60 minute Private Lesson- \$240 per month/\$60 per lesson

*No Refunds will be given for any reason, whatsoever. I have the right to refuse lessons to a student at any point. If the student and parent make the decision to end lessons for any reason, no refund will be issued for goods or services.

Reeds

CKP oboe reed \$25

CKP English horn reed \$30

CKP gouged, shaped, folded oboe cane \$3 per piece

CKP oboe reed making kit \$175

Reeds will be available to students on a subscription-only basis. I offer the following options;

1 reed/Month- A reed at your first lesson of the month

2 reeds/Month- A reed every other week of the month

4 reeds/Month- A reed every week of the month

Reeds outside of the subscription basis are subject to wait times. If you have a reed emergency and need a reed on the spot or in less than ONE WEEK, you may purchase reeds from me for an added \$10 fee.

Practicing

It is expected that students will be prepared the material assigned to them the previous week to the best of their ability. Practice is absolutely essential to making strides in your study of the oboe! I am a guide on your musical journey- the amount of progress that you make is completely up to you. I **STRONGLY** urge parents to be involved in conversation with students about practice and to support consistent practice habits. Practice doesn't have to be a lofty goal, it just needs to be consistent which is why it may be extremely beneficial to talk about it with your oboe student and see what you may be able to do to help them set aside as much time each week as possible for practice.

If I am not seeing consistent practice and effort on behalf of the student, the following actions will be taken:

Strike 1: A warning will be given and we will discuss a plan that makes practice goals easily attainable

Strike 2: The lesson will be terminated without a make-up option.

Strike 3: The lesson will be terminated, and the student may be asked to reconsider whether or not participation in our oboe studio is right for them. I reserve the right to terminate lessons with a student at any point, for any reason. No refunds will be given.

Middle School Students are expected to practice at least 15-30 minutes, 4-5 days a week

High School Students are expected to practice at least 30-60 minutes, 4-5 days a week

Las Vegas Academy Students are expected to practice a minimum of 45 minutes 5-7 days a week

PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for playing outside of the middle school and high school band room here in Las Vegas. I hope to periodically hold events for us as a studio such as Reedmaking Classes, Chamber Music Gatherings, and Studio Recitals. Here are some further examples;

Kalamazoo Kids In Tune

Kalamazoo Junior Symphony

SEMINAR Summer Music Camp at Western Michigan University

Crescendo Academy of Music

And many more!

I also know of many exciting and enjoyable Summer programs for oboe students in our region and beyond. Talk to me about Summer opportunities!

I believe that it is my responsibility as your teacher to pass on my knowledge and professional experience, and I want you all to have a positive learning experience through which you realize your full potential as an oboist. Whether you are playing for fun, or planning for a career in the arts- I am so thrilled to help you on your journey with the oboe!

Musically Yours,
Caitlin