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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**. Reed is 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 (Venmo: Caitlin-Kramer-3)

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. Weekly assignments will typically include: Scales, Etude or Method Book assignments, Solo Literature.

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

PENCILS, to make markings in your music. A **METRONOME** 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.

Lesson Assignments will be sent out via Text and Email on the Notability App. Students are also welcome to use their own notebook for recording assignments and questions.

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

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 at WMU, and being a single Mom to a little boy. In cases of emergency and illness, we will always work together to figure out a solution.

Parents

Our oboe studio is also my home. I do my best to create an environment that lends itself to focus, and concentrated learning. Parents are always welcome to observe a lesson, especially if it is the first lesson! My studio space is a designated room in my home which houses my books, music collection, reed making tools, and instruments.

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. I clean and disinfect the oboe studio on a regular basis, and always have

clean water available for reeds, however, playing in an enclosed area and aspirating through the oboe can definitely promote the spread of germs. 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

Lessons are paid by **monthly tuition**. This includes all of the lessons you will have for the month, as well as reeds if you are doing a reed subscription.

This can be paid by cash, check, or Venmo (Caitlin-Kramer-3).

Rates for 2022-2023 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

oboe reed \$25

English horn reed \$30

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

oboe reed making kit \$185

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.

Some practice tools that I find helpful are a [practice journal](#) and a [timer cube](#).

Practicing is made easier by identifying GOALS. Whether you're practicing for a college audition or a weekly test in band, it is very helpful to know what you're trying to achieve while you practice.

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

College Students are expected to practice a minimum of 1 hour per day as a Music Education major and 1-3 hours per day as a Performance Major

PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for playing outside of the middle school and high school band room here in West Michigan. 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;

Middle School

MSBOA Honor Band

Solo and Ensemble Festival

High School

KJSO (Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra)

LMYO (Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra)

GRYS (Grand Rapids Youth Symphony)

MSBOA Honor Band and All Star Band

Solo and Ensemble Festival

SEMINAR Summer Music Festival at WMU

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