



Top Note Studio Policy 2025-2026

Enrollment & Tuition

- Tuition is due on the first lesson of the month.
- Tuition is fixed, regardless of the number of monthly lessons.
- Tuition will be charged upon the signing of this policy.
- Lessons are conducted once a week.
 - **\$184 – 30 Minutes (young beginners)**
 - **\$264– 45 Minutes (most students)**
 - **\$366 – 60 minutes (teenaged, adult, intermediate, or advanced students)**

*Tuition will increase by at least 3.6% every year in accordance with the national rate of inflation.

Enrollment is a commitment to the full term length. There are two terms: the two-semester school year and the summer term. In the case of an early withdrawal, the full month's tuition will be collected (whether or not the student attends that month's lesson times) and an early withdrawal fee of \$100 will be applied. Students must re-enroll each semester by reviewing and signing this policy.

Annual tuition is the cost of reserving the teacher's time throughout the school year. The cost of enrollment for the school year has been divided evenly for a consistent monthly charge. This means that months with 2 weeks of lessons (e.g. December) will have the same tuition rate as months with 4 (e.g. November). Every August, tuition will increase by at least 3.6% annually in accordance with the national rate of inflation. Tuition is due upon the signing of this policy.

Top Note Studio uses an automatic credit/debit payment system for its students' tuition. Recurring payments will be scheduled for the first of the month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Multi-Child Discount – families with 3 or more children enrolled will be given a \$75 discount on monthly tuition for the third and subsequent students.

Missed Lessons

- Missed lessons are not refunded or made up.
- If I cancel a lesson, I will provide 2 potential dates to make it up. If the student cannot make either date, no make-up lesson will be given.
- Options if you must cancel:
 - Parents always have the option of coming in place of the child for a parent-teacher conference. I welcome this anytime!
 - Facetime/Zoom lesson
 - Phone consultation
- **Q: Why are there no refunds for missed lessons?**
 - **A:** In the same way that renting a house reserves the space for the term of the lease, tuition reserves my space and time for the semester. As lovely as it would be to be refunded for any time spent away from the house, that is not feasible since the space has been reserved and the landlord cannot offer the space

to other tenants. If you are dissatisfied with the services provided, **please reach out to me** and I will do everything possible to make it right! Top Note Studio reserves the right to refuse or terminate services at any time for any reason.

Practice

- **Practice Daily.** 5 minutes daily is much better than an hour once a week.
- **Learning happens during practice time.** The lesson gives the road map, but the journey begins in the practice room.
- **Quality over quantity.** 5 focused minutes is better than an unfocused hour. Start small, then add time as the student advances.
- **Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong.** The way the student plays 90% of the time is how they will play at the lesson.
- **Q: Why isn't coming to lessons every week enough to see progress?**
 - **A:** Playing music is like going on a scenic bike ride: I teach the student how to pedal and give them a map of the road. During the lessons, I give a little push and point out potholes along the trail. But unless they pedal the bike, they will not go very far. Practice is the consistent pedaling motion that creates progress. Practice is the act of intentionally creating the right habits. What is ingrained at home is what will show at the lesson.

Practice Curriculum

- **Order books early.**
 - **Piano students:** I use Faber and Faber and Alfred. Supplemental materials will be assigned in accordance with the student's needs. The books are linked on my website. Be sure to purchase the most current edition.
 - **Violin Students:** Purchase Suzuki Violin Book 1 International Edition with the CD. The edition matters! Be cautious about ordering from Amazon, as they will often ship the wrong edition.

Lesson Environment

- **Students 12 and under.**
 - **Attend your child's lessons.** Children thrive when the parent understands the materials and how to assist in practice,
 - **Minimize distractions.** If you bring siblings to your child's lesson it is imperative that they are not a distraction. Note, space in the studio is very limited!
 - **Come 5 minutes early.** This ensures there is time to use the bathroom, wash hands, and prepare the instrument and music.
- **Students 12 and up:**
 - Parental attendance is not required.
 - Take notes. Bring a notebook and pencil to record assignments and tips throughout the lesson.
 - Phones off. Texting, using social media, or receiving phone calls during lessons is distracting and minimizes the lesson's impact.
- Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes early. Top Note Studio is run from my home, and there is no waiting area: please plan accordingly! 😊

Violin Students

Listening

- **Listening = learning.** Like learning a language, fluency comes from immersion. Look for times to add music into your day: for example, car rides, meals, homework, and bedtime. Alfred Music and Amazon Music sell the Suzuki recordings for download.
- **Listen ahead.** Listening to a book or ahead of your student's level is a fantastic way to "broaden their musical vocabulary."

Why can't I use the free recordings on YouTube? The Suzuki recordings are a model of how to "speak" the language of music. Many of these free recordings have subtle errors and musical "faux pas" that students will imitate. This creates double the work for the student, parent, and teacher as the student learns the piece, then has to unlearn and relearn the material!

Instrument

- Please do not buy any instrument or bow without first consulting me.
- **Let's only buy once:** I am here to ensure you get the right instrument the first time! I have seen too many parents purchase an instrument only to have to replace it due to poor quality.
- **Rentals:** Budget concerns? Rental programs combine quality instruments with accessible prices. I'm here to walk you through the process. Rental fees can be covered by homeschool reimbursement programs.

Piano Students

Curriculum

- **Order books early.** I use Faber & Faber and Alfred. Supplemental materials will be assigned in accordance with the student's needs. The books are linked on my website. Be sure to purchase the most current edition.

Responsibility of the Parent

- **Read and review:** By enrolling in lessons with Top Note, you consent to and understand these terms of service. These terms and conditions may be changed or altered without notification of the customer. It is the parent/customer's responsibility to read and review these terms of service. I reserve the right to end lessons or refuse service for any reason.
- **Take lesson notes:** If your child is 12 or younger, please use a notebook or the practice planners in the "parent resources" section to note concepts, exercises, and questions during the lesson. I often work with the parent and child together during lesson time, helping the parent know how to practice with their child at home.
- **Attend Parent-teacher conferences:** Parent-teacher conferences are held in the first week of October, March, and July. These are a time for us to touch base without your child present, a space for you to ask questions, and to be encouraged as the home teacher! These are also your safety net when you need to cancel a lesson. Zoom, FaceTime, Signal, or the old-fashioned phone call are always options as well!
- **Communicate:** No one knows your child like you do! Parents and teachers work as a team to provide a personalized learning experience for each child. Feel free (and encouraged) to give feedback on workload, method effectiveness, and external circumstances that may affect your child. I always welcome parental input!
- **Be kind to yourself:** know that no parent does it perfectly! No parent feels like they have it all figured out! We are all learning together, child, parent, and teacher. If you have questions or are struggling with home practice, do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to support you and your child in this journey!
- **Enjoy your child:** at the end of the day, the goal is to help this precious young individual grow into a noble, loving human being. So sit back, smile, laugh, and enjoy the journey!

I have read and agree to abide by the above terms and conditions of service. I understand that by signing this policy, I am reserving a space in Top Note Studio and will be charged the appropriate tuition upon the signing of this policy.

Signature

_____ Date _____

Printed Name
