

2025-2026 Studio Policies & Procedures

Sierra Violin Studio

Welcome! I look forward to beginning lessons with your child. I offer weekly 30, 45, & 60 minute lessons. Music lessons are offered in my home in Sierra Vista, AZ.

Teaching Philosophy

Every student is unique. Every student responds differently to music and deserves a positive musical foundation and educational experience that blends their musical goals and unique abilities.

As your teacher, I am alongside you in your musical journey and will help you cultivate a love of music. In addition, I aim to teach life lessons in focus, responsibility, and work ethic – all while mastering your instrument! My teaching style combines classical technique with modern methods. I believe music lessons should be patient and non-judgmental.

What can you expect from me?

Fees cover one lesson slot per week, during which students receive one-on-one instruction. This is the customary format since the Middle Ages. I expect students to take notes either during (or shortly after) the lesson so they remember what we worked on, and what to practice during the remaining days of the week. I will include written notes meant to serve as an outline. Please note that fees do not cover instruction or communication outside the allotted lesson time, other than for scheduling purposes. I aim to maintain open communication on expectations, progress, and the structure of practice.

What do I expect from my students? Learning an instrument takes serious application, study, and focus, and is an excellent foundation for lifelong learning in or outside music:

- A respectful, positive learning attitude
- Dedication to practice
- Arrive at each lesson with your instrument and your music, and be ready to play at your start time (unless something is wrong with the instrument)
- I will tune your instrument at the start of each lesson

Parental Involvement

I spend one-on-one time with your child to prepare them for a week of practice; however, individual practice time will be most effective when parental encouragement is involved. Please set aside a few minutes each week to check in on your child's practice habits and make sure they are building good ones. Ideas for practice accountability:

- Set a timer that you/your child can see as a count-down during practice
- Have your child perform mini "recitals" for siblings or other family members
- Engage the child in practicing at least twice a week and ask them questions about what they are practicing. Pretend that you are the student and they are the teacher to give them an opportunity to teach the materials they're learning
- You do not have to have a musical background to be a music parent

You may choose to attend or not attend the lesson. Some students focus better when the parent is not there, while others require parental attendance for support, especially beginners or very young children. I am flexible on this and can let you know what I think works best, or a combination of the two.

Practice

Students *must* practice to make progress and retain new information – consistent practice will ensure that your development continues. I work with each student to create sustainable practice habits. Each student is asked to bring a journal to their lessons to track progress and practice assignments for that week.

Instrument and materials

All students must have access to their own instrument. A music store or school orchestra program should provide the proper sizing, bow, and case. I am happy to give my personal recommendations for quality, affordable instruments, and supporting materials. I use the Suzuki Method by Shinichi Suzuki. Worksheets and music theory activities will be used regularly as supplemental material, as will school orchestra music. In certain cases, I will compose music for my students. As your child approaches the next level, I will discuss materials with you, which are also on my website and Amazon shopping list.

Recitals

I am always proud to see my students' hard work pay off! Recitals are a great way to celebrate each other's achievements and will be scheduled yearly.

Calendar/Scheduling

Booking a time in my studio means committing to weekly lessons. I teach year-round lessons. This means that, apart from the dates mentioned below, I still teach lessons on days that school may have off. When you sign up for lessons, you are reserving that time slot for each week, the entire year. For beginners, I recommend a 30-minute slot. Please book appts on the Google Calendar Link on the website once I share the password with you.

No lessons will be given:

- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve/New Year's Day
- Labor Day

Tuition Information

Tuition must be paid in full on or before the first lesson of the month. Payment options: Paypal (fionadeyoung@gmail.com), Check (payable to: Fiona de Young), or Cash. Other payment options may be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

What does tuition pay for?

- Lesson time
- Teacher preparation for each lesson
- The studio space

Books and other materials are not included in the monthly tuition.

Tuition Rates

- 30-minute lesson: \$150 per month
- 45-minute lesson: \$200 per month
- 60-minute lesson: \$280 per month

Tuition calculation: Tuition paid monthly is calculated by multiplying the lesson rate by an average of 4 weeks (This rate will not be adjusted where there are 3 or 5 weeks in a month).

Additional lessons are allowed based on teacher availability. Current lesson rates are effective for the 2025-2026 school year. Rates are reviewed at the start of each school year and may be subject to future increases. There will be a \$25 fee for returned checks.

Make-Up Policy

In general, the Make-Up Policy is designed to create a mutually respectful and consistent baseline for scheduling purposes. The goal is understanding and flexibility. However, regular absences or last-minute cancellations are not acceptable and will result in termination of the student's lesson time. Students cannot make progress without regular lessons at regular intervals.

Tardiness

Please contact me by phone/text if you expect to be more than 5 minutes late for a scheduled lesson. If a student arrives after their scheduled lesson time has begun, the teacher will complete the lesson using the remaining portion of the time slot. Additional time for student tardiness is not guaranteed.

If the teacher arrives after a scheduled lesson has begun, the teacher will give additional time past the time slot to compensate for their tardiness, with respect to the student's schedule.

Student Cancellations

- Students must cancel lessons by phone or email with at least 24 hours' notice, or risk forfeiting the lesson.
- Excused absences include illness, family emergency, or severe weather (public school closures).
- Excused absences will be given a make-up lesson within the month, or lesson credit towards the following month.
- No-shows, or cancellations without sufficient notification will not be given make-up lessons or lesson credit.
- Please do not miss more than 1 lesson per month.
- If a student cannot attend a scheduled make-up lesson, the lesson will be forfeited. Make-up lessons are not guaranteed and are subject to availability.

Teacher Cancellations

I will provide a make-up lesson within the month, or lesson credit towards the following month.

Discontinuing Lessons

Everyone's musical journey includes change – if violin lessons are not the right fit for you/your child, or if for any reason you need to stop taking lessons with me, please let me know. I am completely supportive of doing what is best for my students and will recommend a different path if necessary. For the same reason, I may terminate the lessons at any time through written notice and make a recommendation for a different teacher or a different musical path.

Media Release

My studio has an online presence on my website. I will occasionally add new pictures to keep things updated. If you do not authorize your/your child's picture online, please let me know when you sign and return the final page of this policy. Please contact me anytime with comments, questions, or concerns.

Please print, check-mark each section, sign, and send me a picture of the completed form. Text or Email will work great!

By signing below, I agree to abide by the 2025-2026 Studio Policies and Procedures listed above.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email/Phone:

Lesson time/day:

Comments: