

Studio Policy

Studio policies help teachers clarify to students and parents their studio goals, rules and business policies. These policies eliminate ambiguity and can serve as both a reference guide and a springboard for discussion.

Teaching Goals for My Students:

Every teacher emphasizes different aspects of learning. After many years of teaching, I have identified the skills I believe are most important in developing students who are technically proficient, love playing the flute and embrace music in their lives. Some of these skills are measurable, others are not. I have achieved my goals when students:

- Are successful musicians, not just flute players;
- Play using proper technique with a beautiful tone;
- Play musically and know how to phrase, where to breathe and how to express the composer's intentions and their own emotions through their playing;
- Play a wide variety of solo and ensemble repertoire;
- Learn the equivalent of first-year college music history and theory and are able to apply that knowledge to their performance and sight-reading;
- Become their own teacher by applying the basics of music theory and technique, solving their own technique problems and learning to make choices. Students will not only perform certain pieces well, they will understand them and know how to practice the steps needed to perfect them;
- Set personal, technical and performance goals and work toward becoming the best musicians they can possibly be;
- Enjoy their lessons and the benefits of personal relationships forged through music;
- Include music as a joyful part of their lives. They incorporate music into their lives by listening to classical music on the radio and on CDs, attending concerts, becoming passionate about their favorite pieces, sharing music with friends, playing in ensembles and being eager to perform. My greatest wish is that their joy for music will infuse the rest of their lives; and
- Apply music skills such as goal setting and perseverance to other aspects of their lives, leading them to be more confident, happy

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people with a greater ability to succeed in other areas of their lives. True self-confidence is achieved through attempting important goals, overcoming challenges and achieving them.

- Buying music, sending in contest forms and arranging rehearsals in a timely manner;
- Paying tuition promptly; and
- Petting the dog (you will both enjoy it!).

Student Responsibilities:

Learning a musical instrument can be one of life's greatest challenges and rewards. My job as a teacher is to share with students my knowledge, my teaching skills and my love of music. I promise to be respectful of students, work hard to develop their skills and be sensitive to their individual needs. Although I will maintain my status as teacher, I will also be a reliable, trusted friend. I expect my students to maintain these same high standards and responsibilities:

- Arriving promptly to lessons;
- Bringing all lesson and assignment books;
- Being prepared for lessons with diligent and sufficient practice time (a rule of thumb for most is to practice daily an amount of time equivalent to the length of the lesson, but remember that time does not always equal quality);
- During lessons and practice, always being open to new ideas, trying hard and putting forth their very best effort;

Lesson Payment

Tuition for a particular month is due at the first lesson of that month. The amount owed will be the weekly charge times the number of lessons reserved for that month. For example, if lessons are on Tuesdays, then the number of Tuesdays in that month will be multiplied by the lesson price. Ensemble lessons scheduled outside a member's normal lesson time carry a \$15 per person charge. This charge must be included with the regular lesson payment.

Please remember that the lesson fee is tuition. It reserves a spot in my schedule every week for that student on that day. Though the total tuition for the month is based on an hourly amount, tuition paid also includes time and effort I invest outside of lesson time.

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Payment Policies

Understanding the following payment policies will help us avoid any misunderstandings or unpleasant surprises. Please observe that:

- Tuition is due at the first lesson of the month.
- A \$20 late fee will be assessed if tuition is not paid by the third lesson of the month.
- **Tuition is due whether or not the student attends the lesson.** I plan and provide a place for students; therefore missed lessons cannot be deducted from your tuition. No refunds will be given for cancelled lessons.
- When you have **advance knowledge of a conflict**, please refer to my student schedule to **arrange a trade and then inform me** of the schedule change.
- As a courtesy, I will try to arrange a make-up lesson for students who cannot attend due to illness. Make-up lessons are scheduled on an availability basis and are not guaranteed. Please note that when little advance notice is given, a slot may not be available. I will do my best to schedule make-up lessons but cannot promise that I can fit them into my busy schedule and yours.
- If I must cancel a lesson due to scheduling conflicts, there will be no charge.

- These attendance rules may be relaxed in summer and during holidays, as I can be more flexible then.

Performances

Concerts, contests, recitals and master classes can be rewarding experiences. They give students tangible goals, opportunities to learn, and a venue to share their music. I expect all students to participate in some mutually agreed upon public performances. These may include their school district solo and ensemble contest, the Seattle Flute Society Horsfall Contest, the Seattle Young Artist Festival, master classes given by invited musicians, and of course, our famous Mother's Day Recital. We all work hard to do well at all these events. Please remember that while I don't expect my students to *be* the best; I expect all of them to *do* their best.

Observation

Students with involved parents are often more successful. The learning triangle of parent, student and teacher forms a team working together. I have an "open-door" policy and encourage you to attend lessons, especially if your child is a beginner. You'll enjoy learning music theory and listening skills right along with your child. It's a 2-for-1 deal! Please feel free to call me at 206-367-4879 or email me at: bonnie@bonnieblanchard.com with any suggestions or concerns for your child.



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Please acknowledge that you have received a copy of these policies and understand them.

Student Name:			
Student Signature:		Date:	
Parent Signature:		Date:	
Bonnie's Signature:		Date:	

Being informed of these studio policies will allow
us to make beautiful music together!

Thank you.