



SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

2017-18 Private Lesson Information and Policies

Welcome to the School of Performing Arts! Now in its fifth year, our program offers quality private instruction on a wide variety of instruments. Our team of qualified teachers provides excellent training tailored to each student's strengths and goals. We continually strive to encourage each child to glorify God through the talents He has given them and help each student realize his/her full potential. Though the majority of our students attend one of the Reach Christian Schools (RLCA, GCA, and TOCS), all members of the community are welcome.

Lesson Calendar

32 weeks of instruction are scheduled for the 2017-18 school year. Lessons will begin the week of September 11, 2017 and run through the week of May 21, 2018. There will be no lessons November 20-24, December 20-January 2, or March 30-April 6.

Make-Up Lessons

December 18-19, January 3-5, and May 28-June 1 will be set aside for students needing make-up lessons for excused absences. Excused absences include student illness (please notify instructor as early as possible), school events (with 24-hour notice given to instructor), inclement weather days, and teacher cancellation. Teachers will keep track of which students need make-up lessons and will let families know if they should come for a lesson those weeks. Each student has a reserved time that has been set aside for him or her. As a result, a missed lesson will not be made up if the lesson is missed without adequate notice, for a reason not mentioned above, or if a make-up lesson is missed for any reason. A maximum of two make-up lessons will be given to each student per school year except in the case of teacher cancellation.

Please note: During the school year, parents should notify the Performing Arts teacher of all upcoming school activities (field trips, sports practices/games, school-wide events, etc.) that conflict with their child's lesson time. Lesson instructors are not always aware of these events. A missed lesson will not be made up if the teacher is not notified ahead of time.

Tuition and Registration Fees

The 2017-18 Performing Arts calendar consists of 32 weeks of lessons from September through May, with 30-minute private lesson fees of \$26 per lesson (\$832 per year). For intermediate and advanced students, 45-minute lessons are available at a cost of \$36 per lesson (\$1152 per year). An annual registration fee of \$40 per student per instrument is charged to cover piano tuning, maintenance of the studios, administrative fees, and building usage costs.

Families who sign up for private lessons are asked in good faith to commit for the entire school year. However, if a family wishes to discontinue classes during the year, 30 days written notice is required. Parents will be financially responsible for lessons during those 30 days.

Group classes may meet for a different number of weeks than private lessons. Please see individual class descriptions for details.

Payment Options

Lesson fees may be paid for the entire year by check before the first lesson or spread throughout the year through a family's FACTS account. There is no additional charge to use FACTS for families who already have an account; however, families who are new to the system must pay an annual fee to FACTS when the account is set up. Please email Stephanie Ferguson at sferguson@reachschools.online with any questions.

Enrollment and Scheduling

Please submit the Private Lesson Registration Form and check, if paying in full, to the Red Lion or GCA school office (attn: Stephanie Ferguson) as soon as possible to ensure a spot for your child. Forms may also be accessed on the RLCA website under the "Arts" tab and emailed to sferguson@reachschools.online. Once your form has been submitted, you will be put in touch with the instructor to work out lesson scheduling.

After Care

Parents are responsible for supervising their elementary aged children before and after lessons. If a parent or responsible sibling cannot wait with a child between the end of the school day and his/her lesson time, the After Care program may be utilized at a cost of \$10 per hour. Teachers will pick up and drop off students to After Care as necessary.

Lesson Preparation and Practice

It is important that all students have access to a suitable instrument at home. Parents who have questions as to where to purchase or rent an instrument should contact their student's instructor.

Students are expected to follow their teachers' guidelines as to the amount of practice time needed. Practice routines should be put in place at home so that there is a consistent time each day devoted to practice. Instructors will give students written notes as to what and how to practice, so parents should periodically remind their student to read lesson notes carefully. Young students will need extra parental support during their practice time. Parents are encouraged to create incentives to help their children remember to practice. The great majority of a student's progress is determined by what happens between lessons!

Regular lesson attendance is critical to a student's success. Because teachers cannot make up forgotten lessons, families are asked to mark lesson days on their calendars and remind students to come prepared. Students are expected to come to each lesson with all necessary books and supplies. An absence resulting from a student arriving to a lesson without his/her books or instrument will be considered an unexcused absence and will not be made up.

Books

Parents are responsible for purchasing any books needed for lessons, and instructors will contact families with specific information at least a week before the student's first lesson. If the student is transferring from another teacher, the instructor may need to evaluate the student before recommending which books to purchase. Instructors will keep parents informed of their child's progress and will try to give at least two weeks notice when their child is ready to advance to new books.

Performance Opportunities

To help students grow in confidence and poise on their instrument, several performance opportunities will again be offered this year. Some students may be eligible to participate in state music festivals (theory and solo instruments) or Guild auditions (piano). These events are offered in the spring and give students the chance to be critiqued by a judge. 6th-12th grade students who attend one of the Reach Christian Schools may audition for the opportunity to participate in the annual ACSI Fine Arts Festivals held each spring. Lastly, our annual spring Performing Arts recital allows students to showcase their musical accomplishments for family and friends. Teachers may choose to offer additional performance opportunities and will let parents know which ones their students are required to attend.

Summer Lessons

Summer lessons are essential for maintaining musical skills and may continue during the summer months for an additional fee.

Scheduling is flexible for most teachers during the summer, as is the content of lessons. With approval of the instructor, many students enjoy using these lessons to pursue a special topic, such as studying the life and music of a particular composer, playing music in a favorite style (jazz, worship music, etc.), composing their own music, playing duets with another student, or spending more time on a topic of interest (theory, ear training, technique, sight reading, etc.)

Summer lessons for 2018 will begin the week of June 4th and end the week prior to the beginning of school. Time off for vacations, camps, etc. may be worked out with the instructor.

Communication

Email will be the primary means of communication. Please be sure both the teacher and program coordinator (Stephanie Ferguson) have your current email. If you have lesson-related questions or concerns during the school year, please discuss them with your child's instructor first; if you need additional clarification please contact Stephanie Ferguson at sferguson@reachschools.online.

We look forward to working with your children this year, and we hope the School of Performing Arts will be a blessing to your family this year and for many years to come!