

WELCOME HANDOUT



WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY!
We can't wait to make music with you.

As you start your time with the Academy, this handout is here to help you get oriented with our school and community. It contains everything you need to navigate our general processes and policies.

Our Culture

The Saskatoon Academy of Music is the music school of choice for over 650 students of all ages and levels, and we have been in operation (under current ownership) for 15 years.

Our Mission & Values

- The Academy is dedicated to creating an inclusive and vibrant community where students, parents, and teachers can celebrate and nurture musical growth across all ages and abilities.
- The Academy is equally committed to providing a work environment that is inviting, collaborative, supportive, safe, and inspires creativity.
- Music is for everyone, in all styles, at all ages - we are approachable and inclusive.
- **We are on a Lesson and Practice Team with our students and their guardians.** The goal of this team is the greatest good of the student; we work together on practice habits, as well as on goal setting.
- We are responsive to the individual student's needs, interests, and potential.
- Performing is important, meaningful, and fun to celebrate, but non-compulsory.

Contact Us:

- Admin Team (scheduling & bookings, invoices/receipts, general inquiries):
admin@saskatoonacademyofmusic.com, 306-934-2424
- Cassandra Stinn (owner, program director): 306-934-2424

Student Drop Off and Pick Up	Caregivers are highly encouraged to come in to our building to drop off students, and to be there for pick up in order to connect with their teacher and hear about how the session went, homework, etc. We have several waiting areas, including toy and book areas for siblings, wifi, etc. You are also very welcome to sit in on your child's lesson!
Having an Instrument at Home	It is imperative that students have an instrument to practice on at home – most of the work in music education happens at home. You don't need to overextend your bank account – speak with your teacher and our front desk for ideas including rentals, financing, and if you want our opinion on a used instrument you may be considering buying. We can help make sure that you have the right type of instrument for your students goals.
Practice Expectations	There is no doubt that in order to progress musically, a home habit for practicing the material covered in lessons needs to be established. We recommend to start small - very small. Work to fit it into your routine for 2 minutes every other day, and work up from there. Small, sustainable changes tend to work best with learners of all ages. Make your practice space inviting and comfortable, and as free from distraction as you can manage (not next to the TV). You can also ask your teacher for a practice tracker! If possible, a caregiver being present or nearby to encourage a practice session is generally helpful.
If You Miss a Lesson	We do not reschedule or refund lessons if a student must miss, however if you contact us to let us know you will be absent , your teacher will use your lesson time to design a practice plan for you so that you know what to continue working on in the following week (we generally send these via email). If the student is mildly ill and staying home, you could also request to move your lesson online for that day (provided we hear from you prior to 4:00pm for weekday lessons, or Friday evening for Saturday lessons).
Lesson Materials	Teachers will tell students what materials will be needed over the first few lessons, as well as when new purchases are necessary. We stock all lesson books on site.

Lesson Fees	Regular lesson fees are \$29 per lesson, invoiced at the start of each month. Lesson fees are due at the first lesson of every month. Accounts that go overdue by 40 days are subject to a \$20 late fee. We can set up automatic billing to credit cards at the front desk.
Photo/Video Etiquette	Music lessons and performances are exciting! It is considered best practice to ask your teacher or other families if you are recording or photographing anyone other than your own child. Most teachers would prefer to be asked directly before you film or video in class.
Most importantly: Learning music is exactly like learning a language. We learn to read, to communicate, then to express ourselves in an articulate and compelling way. This process takes many years, and is often not linear, with lots of highs and lows. Ask your teacher if they are still studying, and they will likely say yes!	

SEPTEMBER

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2025-2026 School Calendar

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JULY

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AUGUST

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First Day of Term 1: Sept 2
 Winter Recitals: Dec 16-22
 First Day of Term 2: Jan 5
 Academy Music Festival: May 11-17
 Spring Recitals: June 22-27
 First Day of Summer Term: July 4
 Summer Recitals: August 26-28

School Closed - No Lessons
 Recitals
 Music Festival

Recitals

- We offer recitals three times each year: during the last week of lessons in December, the last week of lessons in June, and the last few days of lessons in August. There are typically 3 recitals each day, and they take place in the back space of the Academy.
- Teachers will help their students to prepare for these performances. They are NOT mandatory. **Students either receive a lesson OR perform in the recital during recital weeks.** Your lesson fees go to covering your teacher's attendance, as well as the costs associated with running recitals all week.
- Registration will be at the front desk approximately 3 weeks before each recital season, and teachers will help their students to sign up. Students are permitted to perform one piece (or two if they are doing 60-minute lessons).



Academy Music Festival

- The Academy music festival is a competitive and non-competitive event that we host for our own students; we bring in adjudicators to evaluate our students and award medals in all of the competitive classes/categories.
- The Academy music festival takes place in May annually. Music festival runs from 9:00am-9:00pm each day to accommodate all classes/categories. Students are often scheduled to perform during the school/work day.
- Students typically begin working on their pieces in the early months of term two
- The registration due date is in March (check forms for annual date) with **absolutely no late sign-ups** accepted.
- This event is not included in students' regular lesson fees, and has a registration/admin cost to participate (see forms for annual rates)

