

MPmarimba Studio Policy 2025

For Students and Parents:

Welcome to the MPmarimba percussion studio. I look forward to working with you or your child as we learn about music and percussion together. Whatever your age, together we will identify goals that are just right for your musical development. Here is a partial list of goals for us to work towards in your private lesson:

- You will develop a solid basis of musical and percussion skills grounded in the enjoyment of making music.
- You will develop technical skills as a musician that will allow you to express yourself creatively and musically.
- You will develop skills in listening, critiquing, and evaluating musical performances.
- You will acquire skills in performance, practice techniques, setting and realizing goals, and assessment of weekly/quarterly accomplishments.

Required materials:

- All students must own or rent a minimum of a 2.5 octave bell kit and a practice pad
- Spiral bound notebook exclusively for percussion studies. If the notebook does not have pockets a folder for music and handouts is required
- A music stand for practicing at home
- An inexpensive metronome
- Sticks and mallets as assigned by the instructor
- Sheet music and other texts, etc., as deemed necessary by the instructor in order to accomplish the goals set for the term. (I am aware that music is expensive and will always try to help you find economical prices whenever possible.)

Notebook:

As mentioned above, students are expected to **bring their lesson notebook to each lesson**. It should contain:

- Lesson assignment sheets (notebook paper)
- A copy of this Studio Policy
- All handouts you receive
- Listening list

Tuition:

Tuition is due prior to each lesson. If tuition is paid for the full month before the first lesson of the month a *discount of five dollars for the month* applies. Please calculate how many lesson-weeks are in each month. Cash or checks are acceptable forms of payment (no debit or credit cards). Your tuition includes.

- your lesson (a time is reserved for you, even if you're absent!)
- a variety of handouts for your notebook
- exercises written by the instructor
- studio recitals (which replace one lesson)
- guidance in purchasing new instruments

Current rates as of May 2025 are \$60 for a one hour lesson and \$45 for a half hour lesson.

Attendance:

I reserve time for you each week and regular attendance is important. Regular lessons encourage regular practice routines and musical development. **If you know you will miss a lesson for any reason**, including medical appointments and school or family activities, give me as much advance notice as possible (48 hours minimum) so we can reschedule. Please avoid scheduling medical or orthodontic appointments during lesson times.

Please understand that because I reserve a time for you each week, and the price of tuition includes more than just your weekly lesson, **I must charge for unscheduled cancellations**. Make up lessons will be scheduled for the following reasons (up to three times per year):

- illness (I won't teach you if you're sick, but I will try to make up lessons if I have some notice)
- family emergency
- severe weather conditions

If you must cancel on the day of a lesson: **Please leave a message on my voice mail (608-719-2697)**. E-mail alone is NOT an acceptable method of canceling a lesson. Please do not assume that I am aware of government holidays or school vacations; not all schools follow the same calendars, so please let me know if you will need to reschedule for a specific reason. Finally, **if you haven't practiced, please don't cancel your lesson**--we can still make some musical progress!

Lesson content:

- In each lesson, we will work on technical studies, musicianship, and percussion repertoire (solos and/or duets). We may also work on school band music as needed, and any solos you wish to play for contests or asked to perform for school, church, etc.
- Students are responsible for providing their own music. Photocopied materials are not permitted in lessons as a permanent substitute for purchasing printed works.
- Parents are welcome to observe lessons at any time.

Recitals:

Students (college age and younger) are expected to play in our studio recitals and at any music festivals/competitions offered through the local school systems (including Solo & Ensemble Contest). All students are expected to attend the instructor's recitals.

Practice:

Lessons are an exercise in "teamwork." The "team" includes the student, the teacher, and the parent(s). Parents are expected to encourage students, to remind (or nag!) them to practice, and to help them obtain needed materials in a timely manner. **When parents take an active role in encouraging students to practice, students experience more success.** As a general rule of thumb, students should practice 5 minutes daily per grade in school. (For example, a 5th grader would practice 25 minutes daily.) After 6th grade, students are expected to practice between 1/2 to one hour daily for their lessons. Junior high and high school students who are serious about continuing in music are expected to increase these times accordingly.

Accompanists:

If you need an accompanist, you are responsible for paying your accompanist for recitals and competitions and working out a schedule for rehearsal, lessons, and performance. I will provide you with a list of pianists and will assist you in coordinating with other students to share accompanist fees. Working with a pianist is an important part of learning to be a musician. Not every pianist can accompany. To ensure that you will have a positive experience in performance, please ASK ME FIRST before contacting an accompanist who is not on my list.

9. Listening:

You are required to listen to one new recording every two weeks. This is a wonderful way to learn about music and percussion! Please keep a list in your notebook with any observations you may have. You may substitute live performances for recordings. Recordings may be borrowed from the public library or checked out from the instructor. You are also encouraged to begin to collect your own library of recordings.

10. Resources for sheet music and supplies:

When ordering music, make sure it is in stock. Local music stores will offer to order music for you, but it may take a long time to arrive.

Steve Weiss Music: www.steveweissmusic.com (888) 659-3477

Buying new instruments:

Please get my approval before purchasing or renting new instruments. I may be able to help you find a better price or a higher quality instrument. I am more than happy to visit local music stores with you to assist you in purchasing instruments. (I do not charge extra for being your "personal shopper" -- this service is included in your tuition.)

Ensembles:

Private lessons are in no way intended to be a replacement for a school musical ensemble. Because I feel strongly that school bands, orchestras, and choirs play an invaluable role in developing musicianship, I am reluctant to teach students (high school and younger) who are not involved in ensembles at school, if such ensembles are available.

13. And finally...

I hope that percussion lessons will be a very positive experience for you. If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to call me (after 8:00 am and before 10:30 pm).

I have read and agree to the policies above:

Print Name:

Signature:

Parent/guardian Signature:

Date: