

FERRY VIOLIN STUDIO

Fall 2024 Studio Policy

COMMITMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Please thoroughly read this entire studio policy for yourself as a parent or adult student, and explain the "FOR STUDENTS section *to your child.*"

Parents and students who enroll in the Ferry Violin Studio commit to:

FOR PARENTS/ADULT STUDENTS

*"The fate of a child is in the hands of his parents... What does not exist in the environment will not exist in the child."
- Dr. Shinichi Suzuki*

1. Instill in your child/yourself a desire to learn. Be positive, enthusiastic, encouraging, supportive, and loving as you or your child embark on this new adventure. Believe in yourself/child; appreciate each step in the journey, no matter the size; discipline with love; foster cooperation, not competition; and be sensitive to your/child's response to praise. As Dr. Suzuki said, *"Where love is deep, much can be accomplished."* Students and families are also encouraged to attend musical concerts, recitals, and programs regularly of all genres of music—classical, jazz, orchestral, solo, string, voice, wind, piano, you name it! Observing other fine performances will expand the student's vision and increase their motivation.
2. Attend all lessons and taking thorough notes. Please bring a notebook and/or use the printed document "Lesson/Practice Notes" that I provide at each lesson and write down **all lesson points/assignments** for next week that you or your child can refer to while practicing together at home. Please be attentive and make a copy of your child's music so you can follow along. **If you need a task explained again to jot it down correctly, please ask me. After the lesson finishes, I will ask you to send her a picture of the notes you took to see if anything needs to be further explained.** I am here to make things as easy and as clear as possible. On the same note, however, parents should remain quiet at lessons, unless asked or called upon to speak. It is the student's lesson for which he or she is learning to take responsibility.
 - a. **I often like to take photos and videos during the lesson as necessary to improve practice at home and ensure retention of concepts. I will also begin video recording lessons that will be shared to you in a drive so by signing this contract, you give consent for me to record your lessons and use them for my teaching purposes (self-evaluation, job application teaching samples, etc). Instructions for how to access these videos will be linked on my website. If you are not comfortable with this, please bring this up to me.**
3. Practice with your child at home (or by yourself if such an approach is advised by your instructor). This includes overseeing "review" and ensuring you/the student listens to their repertoire daily. Consistent and efficient practicing is essential to you/your child's progress. I strongly recommend practicing 6 days a week. Consistency is key. Most importantly, however, make sure you/your child follow through with weekly assignments.
4. Purchase any necessary materials. There are specific books, materials, and audio files that will be necessary for our work together. Please see the Student Portal for links to these materials and purchase them as recommended by me.
 - a. You will need to purchase a violin and bow if you do not already own one. Once again, please refer to the Student Portal for details on the best purchasing options and consult with me.

FOR ALL STUDENTS

1. Attend all scheduled lessons and recitals.
2. Bring all necessary books and materials to the lesson. Please bring foot charts, Suzuki books, note-reading books, flashcards, etc.
3. Listen to your repertoire daily. Research has shown that listening to the CD not only cuts the learning time of a new piece in half but also helps improve pitch and musical interpretation and puts into the child's ear a model of fine tone and bow control. *"Listening until we remember is not enough. We must listen until we cannot forget."* –Suzuki
4. Practice 6 days per week and review daily. Consistent and efficient practicing is key to your progression as a violinist. Daily practice and review is expected to receive the full benefit of instruction. Practice sessions should cover everything we covered in the lesson, plus review, and lots and lots of repetition. Remember, *"Ability equals knowledge plus 10,000 times."* – Suzuki
 - a. **No specific amount of practice time is asked of you although I highly recommend 6 days/week. What is expected is that you come to your lessons with my feedback well-implemented from your previous lesson. Depending on how well you use your time, it may take you an hour each day to master your tasks at hand; or, it may take more or less time than that.**

RULES AND LESSON PROTOCOL

1. **Be on time every week. And by on time, this means 5-10 minutes early to account for traffic, parking, and to allow you/your child can get settled. My front door will be unlocked so you can just let yourself. Please remove your shoes and proceed up the two flights of stairs and have your child unpack their instrument in the waiting area at the top of the stairs to the left. Wait there quietly until the student before you has completed their lesson. Please have you/your child a snack, get a drink of water, use the restroom, wash your hands, and trim their nails before coming to your/your child's lesson. You are welcome to get a drink in my kitchen and I will have fingernail clippers readily visible/available in my bathroom to use if needed. All of these efforts will ensure we can begin on time with laser focus. If you arrive late, please be aware that your lesson will still end at its scheduled time. If the instructor is late, then he or she will either extend the lesson or reschedule the lost time.**
2. If you are taking virtual lessons, please see the link on the Student Portal that has instructions on how to properly configure your Zoom audio and video settings and set up your room/stand/music for optimal results. Please be ready and in the virtual waiting room 5 minutes before your lesson time to ensure an on-time start.
3. Please make every effort to leave siblings of the student who are not taking a lesson at home (or quietly in a ***different*** room if taking virtual lessons). This guarantees less confusion and allows the parent to take better notes during the student's lesson.
4. Please avoid answering or using your cell phone to communicate with others during your child's lesson. You are welcome, however, and even encouraged, to video record parts of your child's lesson or to take pictures of concepts taught that week (i.e. correct bow hold, left-hand position, etc.)

MAKE-UP AND CANCELLATION POLICY

1. Each student will be allowed one makeup lesson this fall unless the student is sick during their regular lesson time or an extenuating circumstance arises. If one of these circumstances does arise, please give me as much prior notice as possible so we can reschedule.
2. There are no tuition refunds for missed lessons unless a missed lesson due to a sickness or an extenuating circumstance truly cannot be made up.
3. **If for some reason, your lesson time will not work this week, you can view the studio Google calendar sheet and try to switch with another student who has the same lesson length. You will contact them directly from their information on the FVS Student Portal and then notify me by text.**
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=ajB0NnY5czNicTJqNzZtc251c25paHJ0MDBAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXIuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>
4. If for some reason I am unable to teach the projected schedule (as I may have last-minute changes out of my control from my program), I will do my best to reschedule that lesson. If such a rescheduled time cannot be found during the fall months (September-December) you will receive a credit on your spring tuition.

GROUP CLASSES

This semester, we will be holding four group classes for each month from September-December which replace the private lesson for that week. A day and time during that week will be organized that works for all students and their families. Students will each be prepared to perform (a) piece(s) or an excerpt of a piece decided on previously with their teacher. Students will learn how to give constructive feedback and recognize each other's strengths. Students will also participate in group activities to foster accountability, friendship, ear training, ensemble, and performance skills.

STUDIO RECITAL

If suitable for each studio member's schedule, the winter Studio Recital will be held the last week of the semester. The recital will last approximately 45 minutes (or less) during which each student will perform at least one solo work. Most pieces have piano accompaniment so we will schedule a dress rehearsal to put it together. An accompanist fee is included in the tuition. If you are taking lessons virtually, you can find someone to play with you or Karen will teach you how to play along with an audio track. It will be so wonderful to celebrate the accomplishment of each studio member!

TUITION

Fall 2024 Tuition rates are as follows:

Ten 30-minute lessons + Four group classes + Piano accompaniment fee	Ten 45-minute lessons + Four group classes + Piano accompaniment fee	Ten 60-minute lessons + Four group classes + Piano accompaniment fee
\$610.00	\$760.00	\$910.00

1. Private lessons are billed at a rate of \$40.00/30 minutes, \$55.00/45 minutes, and \$70.00/60 minutes.

2. Group Classes will be billed at \$35 for a 45-minute class.
3. The piano accompaniment fee accounts for a 1-hour dress rehearsal, a 30-minute day-of-the-recital warm-up/run-through, and the 1-hour Studio Recital for a total of \$25 billed in your December tuition if paying monthly.
4. This fall's tuition is based on lessons and studio classes and the piano fee between the weeks of August 26th, 2024, and the week of December 9th, 2024 (16 weeks with 10 lessons, 4 studio classes, and 2 weeks off).
5. Tuition is due in full by the end of Monday, September 9th, 2024. Or, if paying every month is your desired payment plan, monthly payments depending on your selected lesson duration are due by the end of the 5th day of each given month with the exception of September's tuition which will be due on Monday, 9/9. A one-time \$10.00 late fee will be applied for any tuition that is either 1) not paid in full by the end of September 9, 2024, or 2) not paid by the end of the 5th day of a given month if paying monthly is your desired method of payment.
6. Please communicate with me your preferred method of payment: Cash, Check, Venmo at @karenferry, or through Zelle with my email: klferry00@gmail.com. If you choose electronic options, Karen will just request your tuition amount, and you will just have to accept her request. Otherwise, you are completely responsible for an on-time payment and can use the payment envelopes that I will provide in the studio.

SPECIAL OFFER

If, by September 30th, a recruit of yours signs a lesson contract with the Ferry Violin Studio for at least four private lessons, you will be credited the cost of four private lessons. This dollar amount will equal the rate associated with the duration of the lesson for which the new student contracts, multiplied by four. For example, if the recruited student contracted for 60-minute lessons, you would be credited \$240.00. This same reimbursement policy applies to multiple recruits.

MASTER SCHEDULE

- Studio/Group Class: TBD but will mostly likely be on Saturday mornings/afternoons or during the weeks of:
 - 9/28, 10/12 or 10/19, 11/16, 12/13 (dress rehearsal).
 - I say TBD because I have am auditioning for an orchestra next week that if I am hired, might alter my schedule.
- Ferry Violin Studio Recital: December 14th at 1 PM EST at Cleveland Violins
- Weeks off: 11/14 or 11/21 (TBD) and one other at the choice of the student

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This semester, I will perform in various concerts and as I am made aware of the dates, I will let you all know!

Additionally, there will be incredible solo, chamber, and concerts throughout the year at the following places. You can buy tickets online and I would HIGHLY recommend attending. And maybe we will see each other! (See below)

- The Cleveland Institute of Music: www.cim.edu
- The Cleveland Orchestra: www.clevelandorchestra.com
- The Cleveland Chamber Music Society: <https://www.clevelandchambermusic.org>

Lastly, I am always trying to improve my teaching and how FVS is run, so if you ever have any suggestions or feedback, you can submit it anonymously here:

Thank you for allowing the Ferry Violin Studio to help you or your child develop their musical gifts! If you have any questions regarding the studio policy or lesson procedures, please feel free to call or email me at any time.

I agree to abide by the Fall 2024 Ferry Violin Studio policy and commit to taking a minimum of 10 private lessons and participating in 4 group classes and the Studio Recital between August 26th, 2024, and December 14th, 2024. I or my parent/guardian will pay for those lessons and studio classes in full by the end of September 9th, 2024, or in part each month (August/September-December) by the end of the 5th day of each given month.

Desired Lesson Duration (check one):

30 Minutes _____ 45 Minutes _____ 60 Minutes _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Student's Signature: _____

(please return to the website and sign and submit the form electronically)