

2026-2027 Private Violin/Viola Lesson Policies

These policies are in place to help the studio run efficiently while also ensuring the highest level of student progress.

Practice:

The minimum studio practice requirement is at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week, for all levels. This helps ensure students don't forget what we worked on in lessons and makes each lesson more enjoyable and productive. As students advance, more practice is needed. Here is the recommendation:

- Beginners: 20+ minutes a day
- Early Intermediates: 30+ minutes a day
- Intermediate: 45+ minutes a day
- Advanced & Pre-College: 60+ minutes a day
- Planning to major in music? 2–3 hours daily

Consistency is key. Students who practice regularly, even for shorter amounts of time, tend to progress faster and enjoy their lessons more.

Preparedness:

- Parents/Guardians/Students are responsible for purchasing all music in a timely manner.
- Keeping fingernails short is essential for proper violin/viola technique. Playing with long nails is like trying to run in high heels: it might be possible, but it's uncomfortable, inefficient, and can lead to bad habits or strain over time.
- If a student forgets their instrument for their lesson, the lesson will be forfeited and will not be rescheduled or credited.

My Music Staff (MMS):

- **MMS is used for scheduling, billing, communication, and secure online tuition payments.**
- **Parents will receive a link to set up a free account.**
- Families are responsible for keeping their contact information current in My Music Staff and notifying Mrs. Powell of any changes to email addresses or phone numbers.
- Feel free to reach out if you need help navigating My Music Staff.

Lesson Calendar:

- **Lessons run once a week from Aug 10 to May 14, following the Avon Schools calendar.**
- Please refer to My Music Staff for your student's lesson schedule.
- No lessons: Oct 12–23 (Fall Break), Nov 23–27 (Thanksgiving Week), Dec 14–Jan 1 (Finals Week/Winter Break), Mar 22–Apr 2 (Spring Break).
- These select holidays will be rescheduled (Labor Day, Jan 4, MLK Day, and possibly Feb 15).

Tuition Payments:

Tuition is based on the whole school year (August-May) and divided equally into nine monthly payment installments. School breaks are already factored into this total. Mrs. Powell's studio runs much like a private school: monthly tuition remains the same each month and is independent of the number of weekly lessons in a given month. Your monthly tuition reserves your spot within the studio. Monthly tuition is calculated individually based on your student's enrollment date and will be provided upon enrollment and reflected in My Music Staff.

Monthly invoices are sent through My Music Staff and paid securely online. Families are encouraged to enroll in autopay for added convenience and receive a \$5 monthly tuition discount. **Tuition is due on the 5th of each month, except the first payment, which is due August 9.**

Nine Tuition Installment Due Dates:

Aug. 9 • Sept. 5 • Oct. 5 • Nov. 5 • Dec. 5 • Jan. 5 • Feb. 5 • Mar. 5 • Apr. 5

Families are responsible for ensuring tuition is paid by the due date. If an automatic payment fails, families must promptly complete payment and update their payment information.

Payments received after the due date will incur a \$20 late fee, and lessons are paused until the balance has been paid in full.

A pattern of late payments, unresolved payment issues, or continued overdue balances may result in discontinuation of lessons. Stopping payment does not replace the required withdrawal notice.

Lateness:

Lessons end promptly at the scheduled time to respect all students' appointments. Please inform Mrs. Powell if you're running **more than 10 minutes late**, or she may not be present when you arrive.

Canceled or Missed Lesson:

Please cancel absences as early as possible through the My Music Staff portal. (Schools and orchestra directors do not notify the teacher if a student is absent.)

Tuition is based on enrollment, not attendance, and reserves a dedicated weekly lesson time. If a lesson is missed or canceled by the family, that time remains set aside and is not refunded, credited, or rescheduled/made up.

The schedule is at capacity and carefully coordinated around multiple schools and orchestra class times, so rescheduling individual absences is not possible.

Makeup lessons are not part of the policy and are not guaranteed or scheduled by the teacher. However, if you cancel at least 24 hours in advance via My Music Staff (not by text or email), you may self-schedule from limited openings made available by other students' advanced cancellations. These opportunities are offered as a courtesy and may be limited or unavailable due to scheduling logistics. Make-up credits have no monetary value, do not apply toward future lesson tuition, and are not credited or refunded if unused. Please confirm the lesson location before booking.

If the teacher needs to cancel, a makeup lesson or credit will be provided.

Quarantines & School Closures (effective since March 2020):

Lessons go online if school closes or student quarantine; please give advance notice.

Discontinuation:

A one-month written notice (via email to madisonpowellstudio@gmail.com) is required to discontinue lessons. You may use the lessons during this notice period or pay and leave immediately.

Mrs. Powell reserves the right to discontinue lessons for any reason. If lessons are terminated, tuition will be prorated, and a refund will be provided if applicable. The reasons for discontinuation may be: a lack of practice and commitment, persistent absences, behavioral problems or a general dislike of lessons, quitting Orchestra, delinquency in payment of fees (including repeated late payments or unresolved payment issues), and/or failure to abide by policies.

Thank you for choosing Mrs. Powell as your teacher!

***Studio policies and fees are subject to change.