

Sarah Merritt's Private Instruction

Lesson Information and Business Policies

2020-2021 Peachtree Learning Center

➤ Schedule

Schedule includes weekly lessons and is based on Peachtree's calendar (can be found on peachtreelearningcenter.com or in your class registration book), and it includes breaks and other holidays.

➤ Lesson Rates/Financial Information

\$20 30 minute private lesson

\$40 one hour private lesson

\$50 one and a half hour private lesson

\$15 one hour group lesson

- Monthly bills are computed by taking a full semester's worth of lessons and prorating it out over 5 invoices (Aug-Dec, Jan-May), so each month's bill is the same amount per semester. Invoices are sent via email during the first week of the month, and are due upon receipt.

➤ Cancellation Policy

As part of my contract with Peachtree Learning Center, I am required to support the following cancellation policies. In the event of a missed lesson, please note the following:

- Tuition is only refunded in the event of the instructor's absence and a make-up lesson cannot be scheduled.
- If you know in advance (a minimum of 24 hours' notice) that you will be absent, your instructor will do her best to have a make-up lesson time available.
- If your child becomes sick and needs to be absent, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. Your instructor will do her best to schedule a make-up lesson if possible.

Per our insurance policy, if Peachtree Learning Center has to close due to inclement weather, every activity held in the building that day must be cancelled. If a make-up lesson cannot be provided, the student will be credited for that lesson.

If there is stormy weather (possible tornados, etc.), Peachtree may not have time to make a call on cancellation. This would be left up to the teacher & parent. If a teacher or parent feels unsafe traveling, a make-up lesson will be offered.

During the summer and other extended breaks I may offer lessons, but we will schedule those outside of Peachtree's calendar.

➤ *Practice Requirements*

Practicing is vital to a student's musical training. If there is no practice, there won't be progress. The work begins with the teacher – it is completed in the practice room. Students will progress best when they practice every day, as repetition is the key. Length of practice sessions will vary with the student's skill, starting as small as 15 minutes per day. The student will have an assignment sheet listing the coming week's practice expectations. A parent should be involved in the student's practice for encouragement and reminders of what was talked about in the lesson. Motivational incentives will be given to help encourage your student in this discipline!

Listening to music is also very important for a child's musical development, especially the songs he/she is working on. I will have CDs available for different books we are working on, etc. Songs to listen to will be assigned each week and will be recorded in the student's practice book.

➤ *Parent Involvement*

You as a parent are your child's #1 fan, and the main motivator for them to persevere and excel!

It is always helpful for you to attend lessons with your child. It is encouraging to your child, but also it enables you to know how to help your child at home. Parents are welcome in lessons, and you are encouraged to take notes, videos, or pictures; anything that might help you both remember what is talked about at home! Siblings are welcome as long as they can be otherwise occupied.

Helping your child during practice time can also be very motivating and encouraging. This is the time to remind your child what was discussed and corrected during that week's lesson and to encourage his/her progress. Pointing out mistakes during practice and helping correct them is very useful, and this will keep your student accountable. I will give you specific things to watch out for every week.

➤ *Special Activities/Performances*

As a growing musician it is very important for your child to learn to play in public and share their music with others. Recitals are designed to keep the student accountable in his progress, challenge him to perform at his/her best, and be motivating. I love to offer performance opportunities for my students, but there is also importance in having frequent “home recitals”. This could be simply playing a scale for Dad after work, showing siblings the proper bow hold, or inviting Granddad, Grandmom and cousins to come watch songs that have been mastered! “Home audiences” are the most relaxed and gracious because the student already knows that he/she is accepted and loved by all there!

I will provide different performance opportunities throughout the year, but the main one will be Peachtree’s Winter Recital held in the month of February.

This performance is considered mandatory if at all possible. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience more formal playing, and to also watch others’ work at Peachtree. I will send out more information closer to recital time. While other more informal playing opportunities will be optional, I will strongly encourage each student to participate in as many of them as possible.

Other great musical activities to do are to go to concerts as often as you can! Live music is always a fun thing for the whole family to go watch, and a young musician can learn a lot just from sitting in the audience! Check out the Nashville Symphony’s season of children’s concerts called the Pied Piper series. They also provide educational field trip opportunities through the school year. Also, keep your eyes open for events here at Peachtree!

➤ *Communication*

Please feel free to talk to me at any time with any question or concern. I also want my students to feel like they can come to me with any questions or concerns. As your teacher, I am here to help you excel!

➤ *Teacher’s Pledge*

I promise to teach each student to the best of my abilities. I promise to be fair and professional in all my dealings with the student. I promise to continue diligently developing my skills as a violinist so that I can pass on as much musical ability as I am able. I promise to treat each student as I would like to be treated. I promise to discover what motivates and encourages each student in order to meet his/her individual needs. I promise to be available to each of my students and his/her parents - feel free to call or email me at any time with questions!

➤ *Student/Parent Pledge*

Once you have read and agree to these policies and procedures, please sign the “Policies Pledge” on your student’s registration sheet and retain this information for your personal records. Please give the registration sheet to me at your first lesson.

➤ *My Contact Information*

Cell phone #: 931-881-5542 (call or text)

Email address: sarahmerrittmusic@gmail.com

Website: sarahmerrittmusic.com

*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High!”*

Psalms 92:1

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Registration Form

2020-2021 Peachtree Learning Center

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Names: _____

Student's Birth Date: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

(The provided email will be added to Peachtree's email list for newsletters and any last-minute cancellation information)

Cell Number: _____

Best mode of communication: _____

Anything special I might need to know (including prior musical training or exposure):

Policy Pledge:

I agree with the policies and procedures given to me by my child's teacher, Sarah Merritt, and I understand they are in accordance with Peachtree Learning Center policies.

Parent's Signature and Date