

## The Music House~ Policy & Lesson Information for 2016-2017

### **Lessons:**

Monthly lessons are available for the following instruments: piano, voice, guitar (classical, acoustic and electric), banjo, mandolin, ukulele, violin and trombone. Individual coaching sessions are also available (see pricing below). Lessons begin on September 6th and end in May. Students are encouraged to participate in our two yearly recitals, (participation is free and optional). Additionally, The Music House may also sponsor other performance opportunities throughout the year.

### **Cost & Payment Policy:**

There is an annual \$25 registration fee per student (\$40 family maximum), due with your first lesson payment. All instruments (except violin) are \$96 a month for weekly 30 minute lessons, and \$144 a month for 45 minute weekly lessons. Violin lessons through our TAP program are \$75 a month. **Please add a \$10 late fee if you pay after the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month once lessons have started.** Weekly lessons are priced per month, regardless of how many lessons are taken or any holidays. There is NO exception to this policy, unless the teacher has to cancel. If the teacher cancels, he or she will make up the lesson or deduct it from your monthly bill. If the student misses the lesson because of illness, school trip, sport or vacation, etc., full payment is still expected. This includes students who are in year-round schools and track out. When your child is tracked out, he/she is expected to be at their regular lesson. **All payments are due at the first lesson of each month, and are considered late after the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot pay at the first lesson of the month, please make arrangements with your teacher so that they know when they can expect payment.** Payments may be made by check or cash (please bring exact change). Please make checks payable to your individual teacher, not The Music House. **Returned checks will incur a \$30 fee. Please note: The Music House does not issue refunds.**

### **Individual Coaching Sessions:**

We offer by-the-hour coaching sessions for those looking for help with auditions, special performances, or who would like some training but don't want to commit to weekly lessons. Coaching sessions are \$55 per hour (\$27.50 per half hour), and can be scheduled by calling the studio.

### **Cancellation Policy:**

Missed lessons cannot be made up. Please make every effort to attend your lessons! This will make for the best possible use of your lesson dollars and musical talents. Our teaching staff has a very tight schedule, and we are not obligated to provide another lesson time in a particular given week if a student has to miss a lesson. If a student misses excessive lessons, they will be asked to find another studio.

### **Snow Days:**

If Franklin County Schools close due to inclement weather, please call The Music House to see if we are open. You can also check our website. Full payment is expected regardless of the weather. The Music House does not make-up missed lessons due to weather related closings.

**Important:**

Students are expected to take lessons for the course of the school year (Sept.-May). If for any reason the student must discontinue lessons during the school year, it is expected that the student (or student's parent) will give the teacher at least 30 days written notice. Notice must be given to the teacher in person. No emails, texts or phone calls/messages will be accepted in this regard. This will enable the teacher to fill the lesson time with a student from the waiting list. If a student just stops coming without notice, payment is still expected for the full month. A lesson time is being held specifically for you, and we depend on students honoring that commitment.

**Practicing:**

Students of The Music House are expected to be diligent in their practicing habits. Younger and beginner students should expect to practice for about 15 minutes a day/5 days a week. Soon after, daily practice should be equivalent to the length of your weekly lesson time. For example, those students taking 45 minute weekly lessons should have a goal of practicing 45 minutes daily, 5 days out of the week. Parents must be a part of training children and adolescents to reach these goals. Progress will only be evident if both parent and student are committed to the success of establishing a daily practice routine.

*Our teachers reserve the right to discontinue lessons with students who are not practicing and making adequate progress throughout the year, or who are arriving consistently unprepared.*

**What to bring to your lessons:**

Please check with your individual teacher about specific guidelines regarding what to bring to your lesson to be prepared. All students are required to bring their own instrument to each lesson (with the exception of piano and voice students), and they are expected to come prepared with their lesson books and/or music folders. New students will be assessed at the first lesson, and the appropriate lesson books will then be chosen. Usually the teacher will then order the music and the student can reimburse the teacher. Some teachers will require a lesson notebook. Voice students should have a folder dedicated to lessons, as well as either a recording device (such as an iPhone or iPod) and a 10 pack of cd-r's to use throughout the year to make recordings for practicing at home. Guitar students should plan to have a tuning device (regular guitar tuner or an iPhone app), picks, as well as an extra set of strings handy. For students wishing to have their guitar restrung (all strings), The Music House provides this service at a discounted rate of \$15 for its students, (\$20 if we provide the strings).

**Recitals:**

Students have the opportunity of participating in two recitals throughout the school year. One is held during the Christmas season (Welcoming the Holidays Recital) and the other is in May (Spring Recital). Recitals are free to participate in and free to attend. Students are asked to contribute a dessert or snack for the receptions that follow each recital. Students who participate in the May recital receive a special award ribbon for their achievement. Although the recitals are optional, all students are strongly encouraged to participate in both recitals.

