

## GENERAL ITMES

- Lesson studio: Room 237 in Fine Arts Complex.
- Parking: For children taking lessons, University Police Department will issue a very affordable parking permit that can be used for the whole semester. If you desire to avoid the fee altogether, you can go to the parking services and get a visitor pass *every time* you are on campus for the lesson. These are the two options for avoiding a parking citation on campus at WT. Please contact the Parking Services Division at 806-651-2309 for more information.
- Lesson instructors: All WT Music Academy lessons are taught by current music students, recent graduates, and professional musicians.
- Spring recital: Each long semester will culminate in a semester-end recital in WT's state-of-the-art Fine Arts Complex Recital Hall. The spring recital will be held on **Saturday, April 18, at 3PM**. Please plan ahead so that students can participate in the performance.
- Practice instrument: It is advised that students have a regular access to an acoustic instrument at least five times a week. For that purpose an instrument at home is ideal. Piano students: If securing the piano is not feasible, a local church, relative, or a neighbor may be solicited for an access to an instrument for practice. Using a tabletop keyboard as practice instrument is discouraged. There are finer electric instruments (such as Yamaha or Roland Digital Pianos), which have weighted keys for more responsive action. Though they never replace the acoustic counterpart, they may be used until a piano is acquired.
- Commitment to practice: In order to succeed in acquiring musical skills, one must practice the specific points covered in the lesson as well as assigned passages of music regularly. It is recommended that the parent help set a practice time in the child's daily routine.
- Mid-semester enrollment: New students may be enrolled mid-semester based on teacher availability.
- Lesson termination: Mid-semester withdrawal is discouraged; in the event of one, there may not be a refund for the unused portion of the tuition. Students may be dismissed from the Music Academy at the end of the semester for delinquent payment, frequently-missed lessons, and/or lack of preparation for lessons.
- General inquiry: please inquire or discuss matters (including fees) pertaining to the lessons you receive with Dr. Choong-ha Nam, who oversees and directs WT Music Academy. Phone: 806-651-2851; Email: cnam@wtamu.edu

## CALENDAR AND TUITION PAYMENT

- Students will begin the fall lessons during the week of Jan. 21. The semester continues through the first week of May (Jan. 21 – May 2). No lesson during the spring break from March 16-21. A total of fourteen lessons will be taught during this time.
- End-of-semester jury: student will perform for a judge and will be given comments for improvement and a score. It is scheduled for Saturday morning on April 25th. Your registration will cover participation.
- If you are new for Spring, registration fee is \$25.
- The spring tuition for weekly thirty-minute lessons is \$245; weekly forty-five-minute lessons, \$365; and weekly 60-minute lessons, \$490. You may pay for the semester upfront or pay the tuition in two payments. Please make your payment check to WTAMU. Payment is received in the School of Music Office, the Fine Arts Complex room 202, during the normal business hours or can be mailed to:

WT Music Academy, School of Music, WTAMU Box 60879, Canyon, Texas, 79016.

Please include on the check: "WT Music Academy and your child's name." Also note that all checks received in the office will be issued a receipt. Please obtain one if you are paying in person; if you mail your check, you can expect a receipt from the office in the mail.

- If paying by the semester, tuition and fee are due the first lesson day of the semester:

30-min. lessons: \$245

45-min. lessons: \$365

60-min. lessons: \$490

- Length of lessons is to be determined by the recommendation of the teacher. Please understand that as children progress length of lessons must increase in order that an adequate amount of material is covered.
- Music scores and books are not included in the payment. They are the responsibility of the student.
- Teachers have the right to refuse teaching lessons if there are any unpaid fees. Teachers are not required to make up lessons missed while a student's account remains unpaid.

#### ATTENDANCE

- Students should arrive five minutes prior to the appointment with all required scores and supplies. Lessons will end on time even if the student arrives late to the lesson.
- Up to two lessons will be eligible for make-up during the semester for excused absences. An absence due to illness, accident, or family emergency is excused provided the teacher is notified as soon as possible, preferably 24 hours in advance.

#### PERFORMANCE

- All Music Academy students will present some of their most polished pieces, in two public recitals each year, one at the end of each semester. The recital preparation typically begins two months before the date of the recital. But some may begin the preparation as early as the beginning of the semester for a lengthy and unusually complex piece. Note that your teacher aims to have the pieces ready two weeks prior to the recital. This means the pieces are securely learned and memorized by that time. Though memorization of music occurs naturally for most people, if it is an undue hardship, even after an adequate preparation, memorized performance is not required. Students may use score when performing.
- If a child is adverse to performing in front of a crowd, there may be other outlets of performance such as the one-on-one adjudication at a festival. Please note if your child is showing signs of an unusually high level of anxiety over a recital performance, and communicate this to your teacher. A well-prepared student usually feels confident and looks forward to sharing his music with his family and others.

#### PARENT'S ROLE AND SUCCEEDING IN MUSIC LESSONS

- Parental involvement: Young beginners generally require active parent involvement. Ages 5 to 8 (and beyond) will need a parent to be a committed partner in learning. This means the parent will sit in during the lesson, engaging with the teacher's comments and making necessary notes on a notepad. It works best if the parent is fully engaged (i.e. not given to checking phone/email messages or attending to another child). By doing so, the parent is better able to lead the child practice the materials learned and/or assigned to him. Ask questions to the teacher if there is anything you do not understand. (You do not need to have any musical knowledge to be successful in helping your child.) The teacher will be glad to devote some time to help you follow the material, because the musical progress of the child lies mostly in how successful and regular home practice is. I have once heard it expressed that a parent aids the child with an extra set of ears and eyes. Yes, two heads are

better than one! It is not necessary that you teach the child; in fact, it is often counter-productive. You will help your child follow the instructions given him by keeping an eye as to see if he is following them and by helping him remember them (notes taken during the lesson come in handy). Some parents would sit near the children quietly and engage with the practice the whole time; others, if the child is quite self-sufficient (have formed good practice habits and can follow instruction without the help of the parent), would read a book quietly, but are ready to work with the child if a need arose.

- Quiet practice room: it is very important that the instrument is not in an area where it is noisy (by the kitchen, a TV, etc.). Piano students: If the piano is in a shared area like a living room or den, be sure to schedule the practice time and allow no other activity of the other members of the family during that time. Music playing is first and foremost a study of an art of the sound! If possible, consider moving the piano to the child's room or an enclosed room where all distractions can be kept out.
- If your child is older and experienced, your job at home is a less active one. But put an effort to validate his musical effort by asking him to play for you and your spouse; asking questions and having a conversation about the music lesson; and providing a musically nurturing environment at home, which can be done in a number of ways. Your extra efforts in buying CDs/mp3 downloads of relevant music, attending appropriate concerts, etc. go a long way in ensuring a great experience and increased musical skill. Ask the teacher about recommendations if you are unsure what your child should listen to.
- I applaud you for wanting to instill in your child a love and appreciation of music and help him acquire skills in playing an instrument. At times it is not easy; putting in the time to master a musical passage or a piece feels more like a chore than pleasure. But I encourage you to help your child stay with the lessons at least several years, if not until he goes off to college or leaves home. I predict, even from my own experience, there will be a number of times when quitting seems desirable. But since a musical skill is easier to acquire as a child and is something that one can enjoy rest of his life, the occasional slump is better fought off than succumbed to. I want to be able to lend support to you as you continue the lessons here at WT Music Academy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns (my contact info is found at the end of "General Items" in this document).