



## BEMIDJI MUSIC STUDIO

1620 Lake Avenue Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 333-0706

[www.bemidjimusicalstudio.com](http://www.bemidjimusicalstudio.com) [Ashley@BemidjiMusicStudio.com](mailto:Ashley@BemidjiMusicStudio.com)

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# Studio Policy 2011-2012

## Private Lessons

Bemidji Music Studio offers private lessons in piano, violin, viola, cello and mandolin. Private Lessons will be given on a weekly basis for 36 weeks throughout the year. Included are 30 lesson given during the school year, and 6 lessons given during the summer. In addition to these 36 weeks, there are 3 weeks scheduled as make-up weeks, and 4 weeks of additional, but optional summer lessons. These optional summer lessons would be in addition to the 6 weeks of lessons that are already included in your tuition. Additional summer lessons are encouraged, but are not required. All lessons will be held at our Studio located at 1620 Lake Avenue in Bemidji.

## Group Lessons

In addition to private lessons, each student will also attend a group lesson on a monthly basis October through April. Students are placed in a group class based on both their age and their ability level. Your group DAY will depend on which group your child is placed in. You will be notified of your group day, time & teacher at the end of August. All students who attend our group classes will perform in our Festival Recital in February.

## Recitals/Performance Opportunities

Part of the philosophy of the Bemidji Music Studio is to develop poise and confidence in each student through recitals and performance opportunities throughout the year. We will have two solo recitals - one **Fall Recital** on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and one **Spring Recital** on May 12<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a Festival Recital when students from the group classes will have a chance to perform what they have been working on in their group classes in February. The location for each of these recitals will be at the Evangelical Covenant Church (located West of Bemidji on Hwy. 2 across from the Amigo Theater). More specific information for each of the recitals will be released about 4 weeks before each recital. There will also be additional performance opportunities within the community around Christmas to give students a chance to perform Christmas pieces that they have prepared.

## Calendar/Schedule

Please see the attached Bemidji Music Studio 2011-2012 Calendar for specific private lesson teaching weeks, make-up weeks, and rehearsal and recital dates.

We will begin scheduling lessons for returning students in August, and new students as room allows. Please be patient, as this is a very big task! We do our best to accommodate everyone's requests for lesson days and times, however scheduling is done on a first-come-first-served basis, and based on appropriate teacher-student compatibility. Please be specific when you return your registration forms, as this will help us in scheduling the most convenient day and time for your lesson. You should receive a letter in the mail mid-to-late August with your private and group lesson days, times and teachers. Please contact Ashley immediately if you foresee any conflicts with your scheduled lesson days/times.



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### **Preparation/Parent Participation**

Students should come to their lessons on time with their books and instrument, and be prepared! In order to progress at a motivational pace, students should be able to practice an average of 5 days each week. Depending on the age of the student, it may be important for a parent to attend the lessons with their child, and practice with them at home. Even for students who practice very independently, having a parent at the lesson enables the parent to reinforce the points from the lesson when the student is practicing at home. The amount of participation by the parents will be determined individually for each student based on their age, skill level and practice habits.

Siblings who are able to sit quietly during the lesson are welcome to watch the lessons with parental supervision. We do provide some quiet toys and activities, however, siblings are also more than welcome to bring something quiet to occupy themselves with during the lesson.

For those students studying the Suzuki method, the parents need to make sure that the student is listening to their CD on a daily basis.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student has a good quality instrument as well as an appropriate place to practice at home. If you would like information on instruments for sale or rent, or are looking for articles and ideas about setting up a practice area at home, please contact Ashley.

It is important for you to keep in contact with us regarding your child's progress and practicing habits - especially if you are not attending lessons with your child on a regular basis. In the best interest of your child, it is best not to discuss problems at the lesson in front of your child. If you have any concerns or questions, or if your child seems to be struggling, feel free to contact Ashley. As a parent, you will be able to see these frustrations or problems at home better than the teacher will at the lesson, and by letting us know, we can better address and eliminate these problems.

Our monthly newsletter, **Noteworthy News**, is provided to help keep parents in the loop on upcoming studio events, recital information, practice tips, and more. Please indicate on your registration form whether you would like your monthly newsletter to be mailed, e-mailed or sent home with your child.

### **Teaching Staff**

Our teaching staff consists of talented and experienced teachers, and we have every confidence that they will help each student to grow musically to the best of their potential. We want to allow them the opportunity to connect with each of their students, and to both inspire as well as motivate them! In order to do that, we ask that you please let Ashley know if you have ANY questions or concerns. This way our teachers don't have to worry about scheduling, tuition and any other problems that may arise, but instead can focus entirely on what they do best - teaching!!

Please know that we do our best to match your child's personality and learning style with a teacher that will help continue on our mission to make your child's musical experience both challenging and enjoyable!



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### Cost

#### Studio Fee

Each year, there is a Studio Fee for each student, which is due with your registration form. For students who play one instrument, this fee is \$30. For students who play multiple instruments, there will be an additional \$15 Studio Fee for each additional instrument. This fee helps to cover the cost of recitals, supplies, practice books, prizes, incentives used throughout the year and supplemental materials for the studio. Having a Studio Fee to cover these costs allows us to make sure that our tuition rates cover **ONLY** the tuition of your child, and nothing more. Lessons will not be scheduled until a complete Registration Form and Studio Fee are received.

#### Books/Materials

You will be responsible for providing your child with a good quality instrument at home to practice on. It is extremely important for piano students to have an IN TUNE piano to practice on at home. If you need information on local piano tuners, please contact Ashley. Pianos should be tuned at least 1 time each year.

Your teacher will let you know throughout the year of any specific books or materials that your child may need. You can choose if you would like us to purchase them for you, and bill you for them with your next tuition payment, or if you would like to purchase them on your own.

#### Tuition

Tuition is figured on a comprehensive 36-week calendar with 11-months of equal payments (September thru July).

This tuition covers the 36 private lessons and 7 group lessons that will be given to each student September thru July. This means that although some months you will have five lessons, and other months you will just have two lessons, **your tuition will remain the same each month**. Any additional summer lessons that you would like to take (not including the 6 that are already included in your tuition), will be \$12.00 per lesson.

30-Minute Lesson	\$45./month
45-Minute Lesson	\$68./month
45-Minute Lesson (2-students or 1 student with 2 instruments)	\$75./month

Please remember that your tuition is due at your child's first lesson of each month. Failure to pay your tuition at that time will result in a \$5.00 late fee each month that you are late. If your tuition is not paid in full by the end of the month, an additional \$2.50 will be added to your already overdue balance.

Checks should be made payable to: **Bemidji Music Studio**.

### **Cancellation Policy**

We do understand that on occasion kids get sick, or conflicts arise. For this reason, we have three make-up weeks scheduled throughout the year to be used to make-up lessons that are missed. Lessons that you cancel, are canceled by the teacher, or must be cancelled due to inclement weather will be made up on make-up week. Only three missed lessons will be made up over the course of the year. If you must cancel your lesson, we ask that you give us at least 4 hours of notice so that we can adjust our own schedules accordingly. Lessons will not be made up if a student does not show up at their scheduled time, or if adequate notice is not given. Last minute schedule changes are very difficult to accommodate, and will often result in a missed lesson not being made-up.