

FiddleStar Lesson Policy

This information is also posted on the FiddleStar website lesson page in case you need to refer back to it.

Mission Statement

I sincerely endeavor to create a supportive and caring atmosphere for each of my students so that learning the fiddle is both a fun and rewarding experience. At the same time, I have learned just how essential an environment of professionalism is to our success together, and I strive to balance these two equally important dimensions of teaching. In fact, I have discovered they're inseparable – that asking my students to meet a high level of responsibility, respect and accountability is one of the most supportive and caring things I can do as their teacher. I do love when students are so enamored with learning that they find/make the time to practice on a regular basis. But I also know that life can be overwhelming and sometimes lesson time is the only time one gets to play or work on new things. This is alright with me. I strive to meet every student where they are, and help them grow in whatever way they desire. I also pledge to help every student define their goals and how best to reach them.

Payment Policy for Monthly Lessons

If you wish to have a regular monthly lesson time and a discounted rate, payment will be due at the beginning of each month, before the first lesson of the month. You will receive two lessons each month. The two lesson weeks will be determined mutually at the end of each previous month. If you do not pay for your monthly lessons prior to the first lesson of that month, I will not be available online for your lesson. I consider the monthly lesson email I send out to be your reminder and that will be the only reminder you receive. You must remain paid and up to date every month in order to keep your weekly lesson spot. If you need to take time off, I completely understand but you will lose your regular spot and I will offer it to someone on my waiting list. You can pay for lessons each month or subscribe and use the autopay feature to make it easier.

Single/Individual Lessons

If you are interested in a lesson here and there instead of on a regular basis, that's ok! I try to leave some openings throughout my weekly schedule for that purpose. Your rate per lesson will be slightly higher than those who are on the regular monthly lesson plan. To purchase an individual lesson, go to One-at-a-Time Lessons section on the Main Page or the Learn to Play the Fiddle page on my website and click through to the Square platform which will allow you to schedule and pay for your lesson. The cancellation policy below also applies to individual lessons.

Cancellation Policy

If you have to cancel please let me know as soon as possible. There are no refunds or credits for cancelled lessons. If I happen to have an opening to reschedule I'll let you know at that time. However, rescheduling is not guaranteed and is only a possibility if I am given at least 12 hours notice. If you happen to not show up or forget or otherwise not notify me at all, I will not reschedule you and you will be charged for that lesson. If I have to cancel, you will have that lesson credit available to carry over. Remember, you are paying for a lesson time, not the lesson itself. My intention is to have a missed-lesson policy that is simple and easy to administer, and one that honors the value of my time in that if someone fails to show up for their lesson, that same portion of my day is still spent preparing and waiting for a scheduled arrival, and thus deserves the normal compensation. Also, that portion of my schedule is contracted out to that individual in lieu of other students on my waiting list who are awaiting and available for any possible openings.

Practice

Please practice as much as you are able. I will help you create a practice plan. But we can all only do the best we can. My only thoughts on practicing are these: If you really want to get better, a lot better, you need to practice a lot. If you are happy with a slower pace of improvement, you can practice less. Just keep your expected results in line with your ability to work on your fiddling.

Technical Difficulties

Technical difficulties happen and you won't miss your lesson due to failings of your internet service provider or an unexpected computer crash if you've taken the proper steps to prepare.

You are eligible for a make-up lesson due to technical difficulties if you have taken the following actions:

- You turned your device fully off and back on again ten minutes before your lesson. (Restart sooner if your device takes a while to be ready to use.)
- You restarted your internet router twenty minutes before your lesson time. To restart your router: Unplug the power cable, wait thirty seconds, and plug the cable back in. Most routers take 5-15 minutes before they are up and running again.
- You have updated your lesson platform (Zoom, FaceTime, etc.) in the past month.

If you don't know how to complete the above actions, please email me at fiddlestar33@gmail.com. Make-up lessons are offered as a courtesy and are not guaranteed. If make-up lessons are required frequently due to low internet speeds at your location you will be asked to upgrade your internet

speed. Recommended speed is at least 100Mbps (download speed) and 15Mbps (upload speed). If faster internet is not available at your location and connectivity problems persist some lessons may be finished over the phone at my discretion.

Audio and Video Recordings

If you need a large amount of recordings to augment your lessons that would take a significant amount of time away from your lesson, I'm happy to do those outside of lesson time but you will be charged for an extra lesson, or more, depending on the amount of time I need to complete the recordings. I will let you know ahead of time so you can plan for that. However, most recordings are easily completed within the lesson itself, both in person and online. I will, from this point on, be making all recordings during your lesson time unless you advise me otherwise and choose to pay extra for the time involved.

Emails and Communication Outside Lessons

I love hearing from you – I truly do! But I have two full-time job's worth of students and workshops and camps and can only offer advice and guidance during our scheduled lesson time. Please keep notes of the things you'd like to discuss with me and we will cover them during your lesson.

Lesson Materials

Please purchase any necessary materials (books, rosin, new strings, shoulder rests, recordings, etc.) as soon as possible. I will try to find you the best deal for each item and will provide links and resources as available. I will not recommend anything that is not necessary. Change your strings no less often than every six months. Have your bow rehaired once a year. You may record the entire lesson or I will make sure to record important parts for you. All recordings are for your use educational use only. Do not post them or otherwise disseminate them without permission.

Parent/Child Relations

Parents are welcome in their child's lesson. However, I reserve the right to ask a parent to sit out of the lessons if I feel it is more beneficial for the student. In most cases, it is better for the student to take their lessons without a parent present.

Thank you for your time and commitment. Again, please let me know you have read and understood the above. I have spent the last 35 years teaching the fiddle and it is my greatest passion and joy. I only hope I can help you feel the same. I will do my best.

Cheers, Megan