



Private Lesson Studio Policy Valerie Walton, Saxophone

Intro, Teaching Philosophy, and Goals:

I have been teaching private lessons to school aged youth and adults since 1982. At WCMS I teach primarily saxophone but I am also a teacher of flute and clarinet. I can say that I love teaching because I keep learning along with my students. My philosophy is to teach students how to guide themselves through the process of learning to play an instrument. I talk about what they should be thinking about when practicing and I recommend areas of practice. I have also worked with students over the years who could not ever manage a routine practice schedule and in that case my philosophy has been to make the music lesson experience one of fun and not high pressure. I have a strong background in jazz studies but I am a great admirer of all genres and I take the students lead on what their desired area of study is.

Required Materials:

- Notebook for keeping lesson notes and assignments
- Method books TBD as we progress or after the first lesson
- Lose leaf binder or folder for hand-outs
- pencil
- I recommend a Korg TM-50 or a tuner and metronome device
- Supplies: extra reeds, cork grease, swab

Syllabus:

We will practice scale studies and memorize scales to be used in improvisation.

We will practice songs of various genres.

We will study long tones and articulation exercises.

At times our lesson will be spent doing analytic listening.

We may do some solfege ear training studies.

We may study music theory, learn how to use the Musescore music writing program.

As much as possible I encourage my students to audition for the junior and senior district festivals.

I also strongly encourage my students to perform any opportunity they have.

Student Responsibilities:

- Practicing: 20-60 minutes, three to five times a week is recommended
- Recitals: one annual studio recital, an annual parade and other recitals recommended

(over)

Recommendations for Parents:

I encourage parents to ask questions, keep me posted on what they see, and to check the notebook regularly for book suggestions, supplies needed or important dates. I also try to send out occasional “newsletters” to parents. While practicing is very important, I do not recommend creating a high-pressure situation. Help them schedule the time, keep up general reminders, show interest and be a willing audience. Purchase interesting books of songs. Make sure they have a well-functioning instrument and good reeds. Encourage them to listen to music AND, SO IMPORTANT, get them out to hear live music. The Winchester Community Music School is an amazing source of free concerts as well as the local music colleges, Berklee College of Music, New England Conservatory and more.

To Get in Contact:

Use this section to outline your parameters around how students/parents can contact you and when they should expect to hear back. Remember that this document will be posted on your faculty bio page, so don't put any private contact info here that you don't want to be publicly available!

How to report a student absence: Please contact the WCMS main office by calling 781-721-2950 – you may leave a message at any time and the message will be date & time stamped. You may also email the school at wcms@winchestermusic.org Absences reported 24 hours in advance of the lesson time are considered an excused absence. Less than 24 hours in advance are unexcused absences.

WCMS Make up Policy: One excused absence from private lessons per semester will be made up. A student absence must be reported to the WCMS office 24 hours in advance to be considered an excused absence. There are no make-ups for classes or ensembles missed by the student. All lessons, classes and workshops missed because of teacher absence or school closing will be made up. Make-up lessons may be given during or between semesters. Make-up lessons missed by a student for any reason will not be rescheduled or refunded.

Health and Safety: For updates about the WCMS response to COVID-19, please refer to the COVID-19 page of our website (<https://www.winchestermusic.org/covid-19-information>)