

2026-2027 Policy



Studio Handbook & Term Policy | 2026–2027 Academic Year

Welcome to Essential Music LLC! We are dedicated to providing a transformative, inspiring, and joyful musical education. To ensure a smooth, productive, and respectful experience for all studio families, please review our operational guidelines below.

General Courtesy Upon Arrival:

To maintain a focused and welcoming environment for all students throughout each term, we ask families to observe the following guidelines upon arrival:

- **Health & Hygiene:** Please sanitize hands before or immediately upon entering the teaching studio.
- **Punctuality & Setup:** Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Students should unpack instruments in the lobby and utilize the storage cubbies.
- **Student Supervision:** Young students must be accompanied by an adult in the lobby before and after their lesson time.
- **Parental Availability:** Parents or guardians are required to remain available during lesson times—either present in the studio or reachable via cell phone. In the event of an emergency, if a parent cannot be immediately reached, you grant Essential Music LLC discretion to secure necessary care for your child, holding the studio harmless as outlined in our signed liability waiver.

Contact Information:

Julianna Waller-Martinez

Cell: 615.946.8254

Email: julianna@essentialmusic.org

Carlos R. Martinez

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Email: carlos@essentialmusic.org

Studio Address

4671 Old Scottsville Rd
Alvaton, KY, 42122

Main Site: essentialmusic.org

Student Portal: essmus.org

Music Lesson Terms and Calendar Structure

Enrollment at Essential Music LLC is organized around a Comprehensive 3-Term Academic Year comprising 45 active instructional weeks and 7 scheduled studio recess weeks:

2026 Fall Term:

August 10 – December 20,
17 Active Weeks
1 Fall Break Week
1 Thanksgiving Break Week
2 Winter Break Weeks

2027 Spring Term:

January 4 – May 30,
20 Active Weeks
1 Spring Break Week

2027 Summer Term:

May 31 – July 25,
8 Active Weeks
2 Summer Vacation Weeks

Each term registration reserves your student's position in our dedicated one-on-one lessons, ensemble opportunities, and formal performance recitals.

Tuition Information

What does the term tuition cover?

Enrollment in each term includes all scheduled instruction offered during that term, personalized goal tracking, eligible ensemble participation, and formal studio recitals.

- **Studio Recitals:** Formal performances are a cornerstone of our term curriculum and are included with enrollment.
- **Collaborative Piano Accompaniment Fee:** For string and instrumental students participating in term recitals requiring piano accompaniment, a separate **\$20** dress rehearsal/performance fee per student is payable directly to the designated professional accompanist.

Payment due date and Late Payments

- **1st of the Month:** Installments and term payments are officially processed.
- **Grace Period & Late Fees:** Payments must be received no later than the 10th of the month. Payments received after the 10th will incur a \$25 late fee.
- **Term Commitment Note:** All payment schedules reflect continuous course enrollment—they do not represent a variable "pay-as-you-go" or hourly fee schedule.

Please choose your preferred payment plan

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Option 1: Single Term Lump Sum

- Fall Term due August 1, 2026
- Spring Term due January 1, 2027
- Summer Term due May 15, 2027

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Option 2: Two Installments Per Term

- Fall Term:
 - Payments due on August 1 and October 1, 2026
- Spring Term:
 - Payments due on January 1 and March 15, 2027
- Summer Term:
 - Payments due on May 15 and June 15, 2027

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Option 3: Monthly Term Installments

- Fall Term (5 Payments):
 - Payments due on Aug 1, Sep 1, Oct 1, Nov 1 and Dec 1, 2026
- Spring Term (5 Payments):
 - Payments due on Jan 1, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 1 and May 1, 2027
- Summer Term (2 Payments):
 - Payments due on June 1 and July 1, 2027

Term Attendance, Missed Lessons & Rescheduling:

Because student positions in each term curriculum are reserved exclusively for enrolled students, we maintain clear operational boundaries regarding attendance:

Student absences: Please inform your instructor in advance via text or email if a student will be absent. Absences due to family travel, student illness, or personal conflicts are non-refundable and not eligible for tuition credits or makeup credits.

Faculty cancellation & rescheduling: As active professional performers and educators, there are occasions when instructors must adjust lessons for rehearsals, symphonic performances, or continuing education. In these instances, a dedicated rescheduling link will be provided.

- Rescheduled sessions must be completed within 4 to 6 weeks of the original date.
- Rescheduled sessions are non-transferable and cannot be credited toward future term installments.

Wellness Policy & Urgent Communication

- **Studio Health Standard:** Students exhibiting fever, heavy coughs, or contagious illness should not enter the studio. Teachers reserve the right to send a student home if they arrive visibly ill.
- **Day-of Requests:** For urgent morning or same-day communications (e.g., sudden illness), please send a direct text message. Emails are monitored in the early morning but are not checked during active teaching sessions.

Reinstatement Fee:

Discontinuing lessons releases the student's reserved time slot on our master schedule. If the student later returns, a \$50 reinstatement fee is required to reactivate enrollment. Lesson placement will be based on current teacher availability, and the student's previous day and time cannot be guaranteed. Discontinuing attendance does not remove any remaining payment obligations for the active term.

Term Enrollment, Withdrawals & Adjustments

- **Active Term Non-Refundability:** Enrollment reserves your student's placement for the active term. Tuition payments processed for the active term are strictly non-refundable, and lessons within an active term cannot be prorated or refunded.
- **Discontinuance & Auto-Billing:** For families on term installment plans, written notice stops future term renewals. The remaining scheduled monthly payments for the active term remain due and payable.
- **Reinstatement Fee:** See the Reinstatement Fee policy above.
- **Dismissal Criteria:** Essential Music LLC reserves the right to dismiss a student for repeated late tuition payments, unpaid balances or fees, persistent unexcused absences, or uncooperative conduct.

Term Programs & Rates

Lesson tuition for violin, viola, fiddle, and mandolin with Mrs. Julianna

- **30-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
 - Monthly Auto-Pay: \$120 / month (\$1,440 annual)
 - Term Totals: Fall \$600 | Spring \$600 | Summer \$240
- **45-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
 - Monthly Auto-Pay: \$180 / month (\$2,160 annual)
 - Term Totals: Fall \$900 | Spring \$900 | Summer \$360
- **60-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
 - Monthly Auto-Pay: \$240 / month (\$2,880 annual)
 - Term Totals: Fall \$1,200 | Spring \$1,200 | Summer \$480
- **Drop-in Lesson:**
 - 30-Minute Block: \$30
 - 45-Minute Block: \$45
 - 60-Minute Block: \$60

Lesson tuition for piano, ukulele, and beginner guitar with Mr. Carlos

- **30-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
 - Monthly Auto-Pay: \$120 / month (\$1,440 annual)
 - Term Totals: Fall \$600 | Spring \$600 | Summer \$240
- **45-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
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 - Term Totals: Fall \$900 | Spring \$900 | Summer \$360
- **60-Minute Lesson Studio Placement:**
 - Monthly Auto-Pay: \$240 / month (\$2,880 annual)
 - Term Totals: Fall \$1,200 | Spring \$1,200 | Summer \$480

Lesson tuition for piano, ukulele, and beginner guitar with Mr. Carlos — continued

- **Drop-in Lesson:**
 - 30-Minute Block: \$30
 - 45-Minute Block: \$45
 - 60-Minute Block: \$60

Essential Music Group Classes and Ensembles:

Students actively enrolled in private lessons with Essential Music LLC may participate in eligible studio groups and ensembles at no additional tuition. Students who are not enrolled in private lessons may register as ensemble-only students. Ensemble-only monthly tuition is charged separately for each group or ensemble selected:

- *Essential Music Group Violin*: \$30 per month.
- *Red River Fiddlers*: \$40 per month.
- *Group Ukulele*: \$40 per month.
- *Essential Music Intermediate Chamber Music Group*: \$30 per month.
- *Essential Music Advanced Chamber Music Group*: \$30 per month.

Participation is subject to appropriate experience level, instrumentation, scheduling, and available capacity.

Thank you

Thank you for honoring these policies, which allow us to maintain a vibrant, efficient, and deeply rewarding musical community!

Master Schedule ↓

See attached document

Waiver ↓

Please sign the waiver and send to teacher. (e-signature is accepted as well)

ESSENTIAL MUSIC MASTER SCHEDULE

2026-2027 | Weeks are from **Monday to Sunday**

Official Studio

- Lesson Framework: 45 Active Instructional/Performance Weeks.
- Studio Recess: 7 Completely Closed Scheduled Vacation Weeks.

Studio Week	Date Range (Monday – Sunday)	
FALL TERM (2026)		
Week 1	Aug 10 – Aug 16, 2026	
Week 2	Aug 17 – Aug 23, 2026	
Week 3	Aug 24 – Aug 30, 2026	
Week 4	Aug 31 – Sep 6, 2026	
Week 5	Sep 7 – Sep 13, 2026	
Week 6	Sep 14 – Sep 20, 2026	
Week 7	Sep 21 – Sep 27, 2026	
Week 8	Sep 28 – Oct 4, 2026	
CLOSED	Oct 5 – Oct 11, 2026	FALL BREAK (Studio Closed)
Week 9	Oct 12 – Oct 18, 2026	
Week 10	Oct 19 – Oct 25, 2026	
Week 11	Oct 26 – Nov 1, 2026	
Week 12	Nov 2 – Nov 8, 2026	
Week 13	Nov 9 – Nov 15, 2026	 RECITAL: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 RECITAL WEEK PREP
Week 14	Nov 16 – Nov 22, 2026	Active Instruction Block 3 (Week 1/4)

Studio Week	Date Range (Monday – Sunday)	Breaks, main recitals, and Holidays
CLOSED	Nov 23 – Nov 29, 2026	THANKSGIVING BREAK (Studio Closed)
Week 15	Nov 30 – Dec 6, 2026	
Week 16	Dec 7 – Dec 13, 2026	
Week 17	Dec 14 – Dec 20, 2026	
CLOSED	Dec 21 – Dec 27, 2026	WINTER BREAK (Week 1/2)
CLOSED	Dec 28, 2026 – Jan 3, 2027	WINTER BREAK (Week 2/2)
SPRING & SUMMER TERM (2027)		
Week 18	Jan 4 – Jan 10, 2027	
Week 19	Jan 11 – Jan 17, 2027	
Week 20	Jan 18 – Jan 24, 2027	
Week 21	Jan 25 – Jan 31, 2027	
Week 22	Feb 1 – Feb 7, 2027	
Week 23	Feb 8 – Feb 14, 2027	
Week 24	Feb 15 – Feb 21, 2027	
Week 25	Feb 22 – Feb 28, 2027	
Week 26	Mar 1 – Mar 7, 2027	
Week 27	Mar 8 – Mar 14, 2027	
Week 28	Mar 15 – Mar 21, 2027	
Week 29	Mar 22 – Mar 28, 2027	
Week 30	Mar 29 – Apr 4, 2027	
CLOSED	Apr 5 – Apr 11, 2027	SPRING BREAK (Studio Closed)
Week 31	Apr 12 – Apr 18, 2027	 RECITAL: SUNDAY APRIL 18 RECITAL WEEK PREP
Week 32	Apr 19 – Apr 25, 2027	
Week 33	Apr 26 – May 2, 2027	

Studio Week	Date Range (Monday – Sunday)	
Week 34	May 3 – May 9, 2027	
Week 35	May 10 – May 16, 2027	
Week 36	May 17 – May 23, 2027	
Week 37	May 24 – May 30, 2027	
Week 38	May 31 – June 6, 2027	
Week 39	June 7 – June 13, 2027	
Week 40	June 14 – June 20, 2027	
Week 41	June 21 – June 27, 2027	
Week 42	June 28 – July 4, 2027	
Week 43	July 5 – July 11, 2027	
Week 44	July 12 – July 18, 2027	
Week 45	July 19 – July 25, 2027	
CLOSED	July 26 – Aug 1, 2027	SUMMER VACATION BLOCK (Week 1/2) • Studio Closed
CLOSED	Aug 2 – Aug 8, 2027	SUMMER VACATION BLOCK (Week 2/2) • Studio Closed