

Student Policy for Private and Group Studies

Enrollment Guidelines – Fall/Spring

- Fall and spring classes are on a 14-week term. There will be one week off for Spring Break in March, and Tues-Fri off on Thanksgiving week.
- Students enrolled in private instruction are not guaranteed placement with the same teacher from one semester to the next. However, we highly encourage consistency in instruction and do try our best to keep students with the same instructor.
- The SOFA Calendar can be found on www.sasofa.org and the SOFA Bulletin Board. SOFA's vacation schedule differs from HISD and St. Andrew's Children's Place. In extreme weather conditions, we follow HISD public announcements for cancellations.
- All tuitions include a non-refundable registration fee of \$40/Private and Group and \$20/Music Readiness Class.
- A deposit of \$100 or full payment is due at the time of registration to reserve a spot for each student.
- Registration forms received after the registration deadline will be assessed a \$20 late fee.
- Once a lesson time is agreed upon, it is the student's responsibility to commit to that time slot for the entire term. Refunds will not be given if a student can no longer come during their assigned time after the semester begins.
- In the event that we are unable to place you in the desired class, you will be notified and given the option to (a) switch to a different class, (b) be placed on a waiting list, or (c) be refunded the tuition.

Enrollment Guidelines – Summer Session

- All tuition includes a non-refundable registration fee of \$25.
- Summer classes are on a 6 or 8 week term.
- Schedules in the summer are designed to accommodate vacation plans and other commitments, and cannot be adjusted once lesson times are confirmed with the instructor.
- Summer Private Students enrolled in the spring semester must take a minimum of 6 summer lessons in order to gain priority placement for the fall semester.

Attendance and Practice Expectations

- Regular attendance is crucial for all scheduled classes to ensure student success. Students should come to each class on time and prepared with all required materials.
- Instructors are *not* required to make up lessons missed by students due to school activities, doctor appointments, or other commitments. Notify the teacher directly at least 24 hours in advance if the student cannot attend a lesson. If an instructor misses a lesson, it will definitely be made up.
- Private students are allowed 2 excused absences, 3 tardies, and 1 unexcused absence before they forfeit their placement in the program. Extreme illness and extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration and should be reported to the director.
- Scholarship Students: Any one of these 3 offenses will result in a meeting with a board member and probation: 1) 3 tardies, 2) 1 unexcused absence, 3) 2 excused absences. A second offense will result in loss of scholarship.
- Students enrolled in private lessons should practice each day for the length of their lesson time. Suggested practice time for a beginner student starts as little as 15 minutes per day or the length of time it takes to complete the assigned work. As the student progresses into intermediate and advanced levels, practice time will increase in order to meet the demands of the more challenging repertoire. Stay in communication with the instructor to design the most appropriate and effective practice plan for your student.

Recital Requirements

- All students, including students in their first semester of lessons, are required to attend the fall and spring student recitals to support their peers, whether or not they are performing. Participation in recitals is encouraged but not mandatory. Attendance will be taken just as it is in regular class meetings.
- Students should dress formally. No shorts, tee shirts, flip flops, short skirts, or low cut shirts. Hair should be well kept and pulled back.
- For private students, we encourage memorization at student recitals but do not require it.
- Students who cannot attend the recital due to illness or previous engagements should contact the director, Mandy Kung, at SOFA@sahouston.com.
- Adult students are not required to perform in the seasonal student recitals but are encouraged to attend. Adult Music Socials take place once a year, and are designed to give adult students a chance to share their music with family and friends.



2019 - 2020 Calendar

AUGUST

- 8/19 (Mon) Fall Registration Deadline for Returning Students
- 8/26 (Mon) Fall Registration Deadline

SEPTEMBER

- 9/2 (Mon) Labor Day - No Classes
- 9/3 (Tues) First Day of Fall Classes – Late Fees Apply

NOVEMBER

- 11/25 (Mon) Spring Automatic Re-enrollment Begins
- 11/25 (Mon) Make-up Lesson Day
- 11/26-11/30 (T-S) Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

- 12/8 (Sun) Student Recital – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- 12/9 (Mon) Spring Re-Enrollment Deadline Current Students
- 12/10 (Tues) Spring Registration Open for New Students
- 12/13 (Fri) Last Day of Fall Classes
- 12/16-12/20 (M-F) Make-up Lessons
- 12/23-1/2 SOFA Office Closed

JANUARY

- 1/2 (Tues) Spring Registration Deadline for New Students
- 1/20 (Mon) MLK Holiday - No Classes
- 1/21 (Tues) Spring Classes Begin – Late Fees Apply

MARCH

- 3/16-20 (M-F) Spring Break - No Classes
- 3/30 (Mon) Summer Camp Registration Begins

APRIL

- 4/10 (Fri) Good Friday Holiday
- 4/20 (Mon) Summer Registration Opens
- 4/25 (Sat) Spring Student Recital – 3 p.m.
- 4/26 (Sun) Music Readiness Celebration – 4 p.m.
- 4/26 (Sun) ~15th Anniversary Celebration 5 p.m. ~
Andrew Brownell, Guest Concert Pianist

MAY

- 5/1 (Fri) Adult Student Recital
- 5/1 (Fri) Last Day of Spring Classes
- 5/2 (Sat) Spring Voice Student Recital – 3 p.m.
- 5/4 (Mon) Summer Registration Deadline Current Private
- 5/18 (Mon) Summer Registration Deadline New Students

JUNE/JULY

- 6/1 (Mon) Summer Classes Begin
- 6/15-19, 21 (M-F) Great Commission Camp (K to 6th Grade)
- TBA (M-F) Piano Camp (1st to 8th Grade)
- 7/6-10 (M-F) Creative Arts Camp (Ages 3 1/2 to 1st Grade)

AUGUST

- 8/21 (Fri) Last Day of Summer Classes