



September Newsletter

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Happy September Everyone!

I hope you all had a great Summer Vacation and are ready for the school year to get going! This year is going to be a little more unpredictable than the past, but I can't wait!



Fall Schedule started September 6th, and it's been great to see all of you!

 **Group Class** start September 15th. This is one of the best ways to stay motivated, keep review polished and to make friends who love to play their violin as much as you do. The students that have regularly participated in Group Classes have shown improved progress, more willingness to practice, and a greater enjoyment of their violin. **I strongly encourage every student to sign up for Group.** Classes are arranged by level, not age, and are scheduled every other Friday evening in Bay View according to participating families' availabilities. Here are some of the comments from current Group participants:

From Parents: "My son has always loved group lessons, and group lessons have inspired him to enjoy playing the violin more than just private lessons. He's learned how to follow other violinists and also how to lead other violinists. He loves the social aspect of playing with other people, and he enjoys the musical aspect as well."

"As a parent, I can see the palpable result of group class in our home practicing. You can't beat the "healthy pressure" and companionship of playing with other kids. When my kiddos are in group class consistently, they are excited to be a part of a violin COMMUNITY. More apt to get their violins out on their own at home, more motivated to work on review pieces so as not to disappoint their "group-classmates." I could go on and point out the difference in their ear training.. leadership skills.. following skills.. intonation.. tone.."

"My daughter looks forward to group class every week. Playing with friends adds a new level of interest to playing violin ... she is excited about it, and it really helps her focus on new and valuable skills. I definitely recommend the group classes!"

From Students: "I think group class is good because some of your violins Friends are going to be there and you get to listen to them. Sometimes we play the same thing and copy each other. When one person makes a very good sound we can copy that and then the whole group can make a very good sound." - Age 6

"It's really fun to get in a group and play!" - Age 8

"I really think that you should join group class. In group I learned how to play the Orange Blossom Special, Pachelbel's Canon and chamber music. I met new people who are my great friends. School can sometimes be frustrating but group class gives me something to look forward to at the end of the week. I really hope you join in on the fun, I wouldn't want to leave you out!! I really hope I see you at group recitals!!" - Age 10

Please let me know by Sept 5th if you are interested in Group Classes and what your time availability (from 3-8) is on Friday evenings. I really hope that we can grow our group classes this year - the more involvement we have, the better the experience for everyone!



Calendar Our year is already set and ready to go. All of the recital dates, workshop dates, outside events and days off are on the calendar, and this year, you will get a printed copy at your first lesson back after Labor Day! Please take note of when recitals and other events are scheduled so you're not taken by surprise later! Keep your calendar with you so we can go over important dates and deadlines during your lessons. There are a few TBD times, but they will be set soon. Also, these calendars are on the website, so if you loose your copy or just need a quick reference, please check there!



Studio Fee to help cover the cost of lesson materials, recitals, print-outs and other studio expenses, there is going to be a yearly \$25 studio fee for each family, due the first lesson of September. This will help delay a rate increase and allow our studio to continue growing and offering diverse opportunities for performing.



Master Classes New this year are a few collaborations with other teachers in the area for several master classes throughout the year. A master class is an opportunity to have a lesson with another teacher in front of other students. This allows both the performing student and the audience to gain a new perspective on the piece being played as well as learning tips and practice techniques from another teacher. It will also give students a chance to meet and hear students from other studios.



As our studio advances and gets older, some opportunities for playing and performing are going to be coming available in our community. Two big organizations are the Wisconsin School of Music Association (WSMA) and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO). Please see the attached link that covers many the opportunities available through these organizations.



Recitals are all set and scheduled, so there shouldn't be any surprises :) Recitals are an important part of building confidence and pride in one's playing, so it is important that students attend as many performing opportunities as possible. Nursing Home Recitals are optional, but encouraged; formal Solo Recitals are required unless there is an unavoidable conflict; Group Recitals and Book Recitals are mandatory.

SWAP LIST The Swap List has been updated. Remember, there are no more make up lessons, so if you need to reschedule, please reach out to other parents to switch lesson times with you. If your information is not on the list and you'd like it to be, please let me know.



Parking Lastly, those of you who come to my house for lessons, our neighbor to the north has requested that you don't park in front of her house or walk through her grass and I promised her I'd let you all know her wishes.



Student Events: If a student is in an upcoming show, concert, play, or artistic event of some kind, let me know before the first of the month and I'll include their event in the newsletter so that other students can go see the performance!

I think that's it for now! Scroll down to see the September calendar and what's coming up in October.

Happy Practicing!

Gretchen



in October

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LABOR DAY WEEKEND 	2
3 	4 LABOR DAY	5 Fall Schedule begins 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 GROUPS & ENSEMBLES 	16 Master Class with Travis's Studio 4:00 Brass Bell 210 W Silverspring Dr
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 GROUPS & ENSEMBLES 	30

NOTES

If you need any changes in your lesson time, I need to know your availability NO later than Sept 1.

IST NURSING HOME RECITAL will be October 14 at 2:30 at the Symphony of Glendale. 6263 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale 53209