

**Helen Fall
STUDIO POLICY
Academic Year 2023-2024**

To make accounting more even, the following procedure for payment will be in effect **August 28, 2023 through May 9, 2024**. Before and after this period, lessons will be on a per-lesson basis, with payment due in advance, or at the lesson.

TUITION:

- Payment during the academic year is on a tuition plan, with nine payments, divided equally. The first payment on this schedule is due at the first “academic year” lesson in September, with the ninth payment due at the first lesson in May. Regardless of the number of lessons per month, monthly payments remain the same. *Monthly payments are due the first lesson of each month, September through May.*
- There will be **31 private lessons** for the academic year.
- **Tuition payment: \$335.00 per month (\$640 per month for 2 in a family or 2 lessons/week, \$960 for 3 in a family or 3 lessons/week)**

CALENDAR:

• **“NO LESSON” Days**

*There will be **no lessons** on the following dates:*

Sept. 4	Nov. 14	Dec. 18-28	Feb. 6-8
Oct. 9-12	Nov. 22-23	Jan. 1	Mar. 25-28

• **Studio Masterclasses**

Held once each month on the following dates:

Sept. 10 or 13	Nov. 12 or 8*	Jan. 21 or 17*	Mar. 3 or Feb. 28*	May 5 or 8
Oct. 22 or 25	Dec. 10 or 6*	Feb. 11 or 14	Apr. 7 or 10	

**Group A & B in reverse order*

Group A (mixed): Sundays 7:00-8:30PM (*Morgan, Logan, Claire, Colleen, Kelly, Sarah*)

Group B (violas): Wednesdays 7:00-8:30PM (*Erya, Jinger, Maya, Evelyn, Alyssa, Jason*)

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

*Students are **required** to participate in the following (please refer to “Studio Calendar” for dates):*

- **Studio Masterclasses:**
Nine Masterclasses (September through May)
- **Festivals:**
 1. VFMC Spring Festival (March)
 2. VBODA Solo & Ensemble Festival (April)
- **Recitals:**
Two Studio Recitals (December and May)
- **Orchestra:**
Students in 12th grade and below must participate in an orchestra of their choice (school orchestra, youth orchestra or community orchestra).
- **Additional Performances:**
Students will also be expected to participate in NVMTA or SMC recitals as part of their preparation for festivals and/or competitions as requested.
***Selected students** will be invited to participate at a higher level, in area competitions.*

PLEASE NOTE: *Every effort will be made to adhere to the above program of study. However, schedules, events, and/or dates are subject to change or cancelation.*

(OVER, PLEASE)

CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Attending concerts is a vital part of any musician's education. Therefore, students in the Fall Studio are required to attend a minimum of three *professional* concerts per school year involving violin and/or viola. This can be a concert of classical, rock, bluegrass, jazz, or any other style of music, **performed by professional musicians**. Proof of attendance is required (concert program, or, if no program is available, ticket stub or "selfie" photograph, must be brought to the lesson). I will alert parents and students to concerts/recitals of particular interest. Many professional concerts and recitals in the metro area are free, or at a considerable discount to students.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected to come to lessons prepared to refine skills *they have practiced at home*.

Elementary School students are required to practice **30-45 minutes** each day.

Middle School students are required to practice **45 minutes to an hour** each day.

High School and Adult students are required to practice **one to one-and-one-half hours** each day.

[These are minimum requirements. *Students are welcome to practice more!*]

REMEMBER: "You don't have to practice every day -- only on the days that you eat!" ~ S. Suzuki

STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

All students must have the following:

- Instrument and Bow in good working condition (instrument properly adjusted by qualified violin repairman, good strings, good bow hair, rosin, soft lint-free cloth for cleaning instrument)
- Music stand
- Metronome
- Full-length mirror

STUDENT GOALS & EVALUATIONS:

Students will work with Mrs. Fall to determine specific goals for the school year (including technical, musical, studio events and concert attendance). These goals will be re-evaluated twice: in December and May. Evaluations will determine if the goals are being met. Upon evaluation, the following recommendations will be given: *Continue Lessons*, *Continue Lessons with Improved Practice Habits*, or *Discontinue Lessons*. **Students who are unable to meet the requirements as listed in this Studio Policy will be recommended to another teacher.**

ACCOMPANIST:

The services of a *professional accompanist* will be provided at **no additional charge** for Performance Masterclasses, festivals, competitions, and recitals. ***Students may not engage their friends, siblings, or parents as accompanists.***

MUSIC:

Music and technique books will be purchased by Mrs. Fall. Students will be billed for the amount paid when materials are distributed.

MISSED LESSONS:

- There are **no refunds or makeups for lessons missed by students**.
- Students use the swap list to avoid missing a lesson. Students make the swap arrangements, and notify Mrs. Fall before the swap takes place. ***If you know in advance that you will have a conflict with a lesson (e.g. youth orchestra commitments, regional or district orchestras, school trips, doctor appointment, etc.), it is your responsibility to utilize the swap list.***
- **If student or teacher experience any cold or flu symptoms**, masks will be worn during lesson.
- **If a student experiences fever**, the in-person lesson will be canceled. If the student is well enough to attend virtually, lessons may be moved to the Zoom platform.
- Sometimes my professional schedule necessitates asking students to alter lesson times or dates. ***All teacher absences*** will be rescheduled, or tuition will be reduced for the missed lesson.

COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to call, text, or e-mail at any time with questions or concerns regarding music lessons at (703)772-5212 or helenfallstudio@gmail.com. Check the Studio website, www.helenfall.com! Studio activities will be posted near the time of each event. Checking the website can answer many questions.