

Case School of Music

Getting The Most Out Of Music Lessons



Case School of Music
The Western Mall
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Commitment

We recommend a minimum commitment to music lessons of a full semester; an entire school year would be better. Studies show that it takes a minimum of eight weeks to see any significant long term improvement in any skill. Our semesters are 16 (fall) and 20 (spring) week semesters. By the end of a semester a student and parents should see progress.



**Music
practice
doesn't
have to
be a
chore!**

PRACTICE

"You don't have to practice every day, just on the days that you eat."

The statement above is good advice, but not always the most practical. As with anything, improving in music takes practice. One of the main problems with music lessons is the drudgery of practicing and the conflict between parents and students to practice every day.

The most important time for the student to practice is immediately following the lesson – or at least on the same day as the lesson, after the student has received instruction. Research indicates that retention rate is as high as 90% on the first day, whereas it drops to almost 60% if the student waits just 24 hours.

You get out of it what you put into it. What we require is consistency; the results will speak for themselves.



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Practice Tips For Students and Parents

1. Aim for five to six days of practice EACH week. Consistency is key, even if it is only for 15 minutes!
2. Whatever you do, make sure you practice right after your lesson AND the day following - retention will be 90%!
3. Set the same time every day to practice so it becomes part of your routine or habit. This works particularly well for children.
4. Don't set a timer - aim for purposeful repetitions rather than time. When practicing, aim for performing your assignment three times in a row flawlessly. For longer and more challenging pieces, be sure you are practicing in small sections. A good measure of your progress is to ask yourself,

at the end of your practice time, if you can play your assignment better than when you started your session.
5. Rewards work well for both children and adult students! Adults can reward themselves with a cappuccino after a successful week of practice. Parents can encourage children to practice by granting them occasional rewards for successful practicing.

Have Fun!!

Music should be something that you enjoy for a lifetime! Try not to place unrealistic expectations on you, or your children, to learn too quickly. Everyone learns at a different pace and the key is to enjoy the journey!

