



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Community Music School

Mission: Our mission is to serve the musical needs of the Golden Triangle Area providing high quality instruction in piano, guitar, voice, woodwinds, brass, percussion and strings. Lessons are scheduled on a semester basis and available for all ages and abilities. The MSU Community Music School strives to offer a broad and rich menu of musical opportunities for both adults and beginners, and to enrich the lives of the Starkville and Northeast Mississippi communities by offering excellent, affordable music instruction to all people, and to provide performance opportunities that contribute to the cultural life of the communities we serve. This mission is based upon the notion that music should play a central role in the life of all healthy communities and that each individual has the capacity for music learning and expression.

Core Values

The Community Music School sees the following “core values” as the essence of its existence:

- **Welcoming:** A commitment to serving individuals of all ages, aptitudes and interests.
- **Excellence:** A commitment to providing quality music instruction by maintaining a faculty of talented and professional musicians.
- **Community:** A commitment to enriching lives and strengthening relationships in the community through music.
- **Appreciation:** A commitment to cultivating and promoting music appreciation in the Starkville and Northeast Mississippi communities.
- **Nurturing:** A commitment to fostering musical interests in a supportive and caring environment to all those studying music at the Community Music School.

Location: Lessons/classes take place at MSU Music Building, and it is prohibited to receive instructions at your home and/or instructor’s home.

Tuition: Students/guardians/parents must select the number of lessons per semester, 6 or 12 weeks, and length, 30-, 45- or 60-minute lessons. Tuition must be paid in full at the beginning of each semester. Not receiving the application and payment implies the student is not returning, which does not guarantee lessons for the semester. Reimbursement is not possible once the student takes the first lesson/class.

First Day of Lesson: Serves as an assessment of students’ skills, ability to follow instructions, classroom behavior, musical taste, and goals. Books and scores are required for the semester and copies are restricted due to copyright laws. Daily practice is expected and required to develop the necessary skills for performance.

Materials: Books and scores are selected at the beginning of the semester and instructors will be happy to help find them for purchase. Using a notebook or binder write the following to serve as documentation that you taught a lesson, as well as guideline during practice:

- 1) Lesson date
- 2) List of work(s) covered with detail directions on how to practice
- 3) List of expectations for the next meeting
- 5) A practicing log, when needed

Curriculum: We suggest instructor to follow the [MMTA \(Mississippi Music Teachers Association\)](#) curriculum. Students are encouraged to participate in all or any of the following annual activities: MMTA District Evaluations, [Federation of Music Clubs](#), Bach Festival, MSU Solo and Ensemble, [MMTA Concerto Competition](#), and the Fall and Spring recitals.

Practice: It is the student's responsibility to maintain daily practice, to attend lessons on time, and to prepare what is expected for each lesson. It is important to practice for improvement, especially younger musicians. Please ask your instructor for guidance, but the minimum expected practicing time would be 30 minutes per day, while for an intermediate to advanced pianist it is appropriate to have at least one hour per day.

Absence/make-up lessons: Lessons missed by the instructor will be rescheduled. If students provide at least 24 hours-notice, the instructor will attempt to reschedule a make-up lesson for the missed lesson. Only two make-up lessons are allowed per semester, and should the make-up lesson be canceled, the lesson will be considered as given. Students who do not notify the instructor of an absence, or notifies with less than 24 hours in advance, will not be allowed to request a make-up lesson. It is customary practice that instructors wait for the first 15 minutes of the lesson, and beyond that a lesson is considered canceled. Tardiness cannot be made-up, be early to be ready for the lesson on time.

Weather: In case of severe weather, lessons will be canceled and rescheduled when possible. Instructors reserve the right to cancel or adjust a lesson in case of severe weather.