



McGee

Violin & Viola

Studio

2026 Studio
Info Packet

McGee Violin & Viola Studio

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praisehimwithstrings.com

1. What is the vision?

- I aspire to awaken a deep passion for music in my students. I have frequently said that the reason I wanted to become a teacher is because I love watching for and causing what I call “the lightbulb moment”. It’s when a student’s face lights up from within when they suddenly understand the concept I have been teaching. I believe that once the student gets a well-fostered, truly understood taste of that moment, the momentum to keep learning will become self-perpetuating.

2. How old do I have to be to take lessons?

- However old you want! I began taking violin when I was 9 years old, and I have heard of 1- and 2-year-olds taking violin lessons. I would personally prefer it if your beginning student were somewhere around 6 or 7, but I will take them as young as the parent or student desires to begin. It is never too late to learn an instrument!

3. How long are the lessons?

- The lesson length is going to vary, based on how advanced the student is. For beginners, I teach 30-minute lessons. Intermediate increases to 45 minutes, and advanced becomes 60 minutes/1 hour.

4. Where do we meet for lessons? What are your hours?

- My studio space is at 8437 Roaring Fork Dr., 80924. I teach from 4:00 – 6:30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- When you bring your student to lesson, please park on the street. **DO NOT park in the driveway**, as people come home during my studio hours and park in the garage. If you are parked in the driveway, your vehicle will be blocking anyone coming and going from the garage. **ONLY** park in the street.

5. Nice house! Can I come in?

- If the door is open, that probably means the screen door is unlocked and you can come straight in. If the door is closed, it's probably locked, so please ring the bell!
- Please remain in the foyer if I'm not yet done with the previous student. This is my parents' home, not mine, and since my son is crawling, we are minimizing strangers' shoes and school germs that come into the house. Please don't walk all the way in unless invited by Ms. Jorrie or Mrs. Powell.

6. Why the weird hours?

- I work at Rocky Mountain Classical Academy as a part-time Gifted & Talented coach, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. I keep my non-studio evenings free for my husband and son, my family, and social life, so my studio evenings are rigid.
- Later in the semester, I occasionally have full studio closures due to school events. However, usually, these events are planned in advance, and I often specially open Mondays or Fridays in those weeks. These Mondays/Fridays are not the regular, but I try to plan ahead to make sure all studio parents still have availability for their students.

7. How much do lessons cost?

- \$38 for a half hour, \$43 for 45 minutes, and \$53 for an hour. I accept payment by check or app (no cash). Information for my Venmo is available upon request. I send out an invoice the weekend before the last lesson of each month, with all the student's lesson days, the full amount, and invoice number, and I expect payment for all lessons in the month before or on the last calendar day of the month.
- If, for whatever reason, the payment is delayed longer than the last calendar day of the month, I begin to apply a late fee of 10% increase for every following week: \$40 -> \$44 -> \$48.40, etc. If payment is not received after two months, your student will forfeit their position in my studio, and payment will still be required.

8. What if I need to cancel? What if I forget a lesson?

- If the student cannot attend the lesson, call/text/email me no later than 2 hours before the lesson (1.5 hours is mandatory; 6 – 12 hours is preferable). Once I get a notification that a student can't make it, I will reach out to the parent(s) as soon as possible to find a different day for the lesson. In that case, if the lesson is cancelled within the hours above, I will shift the payment to that day. If no alternate day works, no payment is necessary.
- If the student is a no-show with no warning, or less than 1.5 hours' notice, I will still charge the full lesson price for that lesson time slot. Additionally, if a student is

over 10 minutes late with no warning, I will still charge the full lesson price despite starting at a later time, and I will end at the usual time.

- Lastly, if the student is 15 minutes late and is not responding to any communication, I will cancel the lesson and still charge the full price.

9. What if YOU need to cancel a lesson?

- I do everything I can to ensure that I am present for all my lessons with all my students. My studio is both my job and my passion, and I do everything I can after my RMCA job to ensure my full attention and presence at every lesson. However, if I find myself needing to cancel a lesson, or if I answer a phone call/text saying that you are at my studio door and I am not answering, that lesson will not be charged.

10. What if I need a virtual lesson?

- Cold and flu season gets to us all, tummies get upset, appointments go long, families get messy, traffic goes crazy, Colorado weather gets temperamental (need I say more?): I get it! I am open and available to teach through Google Meet or FaceTime. Please schedule a virtual lesson if the student is sick but can still play.
- If you have other children that attend the lesson (older/younger siblings) and they become sick as well and you cannot leave them at home, then you will also need to go virtual, cancel, or reschedule.

11. What do I need for my lessons? How do I size my instrument? Where do I find all my supplies?

- I recommend renting/purchasing through Graner Music or Mijares Violins. The string people at Graner are excellent, and they will size you up accurately and provide you with all your supplies (instrument, bow, shoulder rest/sponge, rosin, cleaning cloth, case). And Juan Mijares is a good friend and my personal luthier (violin maker) for all my instrument maintenance.

12. Do I need to practice?

- Only on the days that end in “day”. Yes, you definitely need to practice. The amount of time will vary depending on your skill level, but it can range anywhere from 10 minutes to 60 minutes every day. I recommend that most beginners practice 10-15 minutes every day. As a Christian, I am a strong advocate of “days of rest”. I personally profit from taking a day through the week of not practicing, and I highly recommend your student does as well.

13. Will I be able to showcase my talent?

- Definitely! I put on studio recitals that I plan for at the beginning of each semester. I pick a piece with each individual student, walk them through the correct recital preparation procedure, and help them practice proper recital etiquette. I usually plan for two recitals: the end of the fall semester in December, and the end of the spring semester in late May/very early June.
- Your student is expected to perform in every recital. However, to maintain a position in my studio, each student is required to perform in one recital every calendar year.

14. Why is my mom/dad/guardian still here?

- I require a parent/guardian to stay for the duration of their child’s lesson. I do this to ensure that the parent knows what I am teaching, how I am teaching it, and their child’s particular strengths and weaknesses to work on with them at home. Additionally, I am a very big advocate for parent/guardian involvement in their children’s extracurriculars.
- If the regular parent (usually the mom) cannot bring the student to the lesson, please ensure that a trusted adult accompanies the student inside and sits through the lesson.

15. What if I’m old enough to drive? Does my parent/guardian still have to come?

- If your student is old enough to drive, I do allow the student to come to the lesson alone. However, you need to have attended lessons in person with your student for **a year and a half** so that you are familiar with how I teach and how your student and I interact. Once your student has 1, been in my studio for a year and a half and 2, has a valid driver’s license, he/she can start driving him-/herself to violin lessons unattended.

16. How can I pay you?

- I am available on Venmo, PayPal, and CashApp. I prefer Venmo, as they do not take a percentage out of the total amount, and PayPal does. If you choose to send payment via PayPal, there will be a required extra app fee to ensure that I receive the full amount for your student's month of lessons.
- If you choose to pay for your student's lessons over Venmo, **do not** mark the transaction as payment for goods/services, because Venmo takes a "seller transaction fee" of 1.9%.