

So, You Want to Take Music Lessons?

Music lessons can be very rewarding, but they are also a lot of work. Many people begin lessons but quit before becoming accomplished or even proficient. Here are some points to consider before signing up for lessons:

Do you have time to practice?

The average student should practice about 5 times a week, for 30 minutes each day. Regular, consistent practice yields better results than “cramming” the day before the lesson. If the student is involved in several other activities, will he/she really have time to practice everyday?

Does Mom or Dad have time to supervise practice?

Children, especially beginners, often need close supervision during their practice session. Students are more successful with parental support. Does Mom or Dad have time to do this as needed?

Do you have a piano?

If you don't have a piano, how will you practice? Some students begin lessons, intending to purchase a piano later or to practice outside their home. Many times, however, these plans fall through and students have no way to practice, so they quit almost immediately. Voice students also benefit from having a piano. Even very rudimentary piano skills can help a voice student learn his or her notes.

Will you work hard?

Learning a musical instrument takes dedication and lots of hard work. It will not always be easy. Challenges will arise. When music becomes difficult, will you become discouraged and quit, or work harder until you conquer the challenge?

Will you be patient?

Learning a musical instrument takes time. Many students become proficient after several years of study and practice. Becoming an accomplished musician takes even longer. Music is a language. It takes years for a child to master his/her native language to be able to understand, speak, read, and write it fluently. Similarly, it takes years to understand, perform, read, and write music fluently.

Will you participate in activities?

Participating in recitals, festivals, and other activities can give students added motivation and encouragement. Many students thrive on the recognition they receive from participating in these activities.

Is now a good time?

Taking music lessons is a big commitment. If the student's family life is very hectic (e.g., due to caring for an aged family member or preparing for an upcoming move), lessons may not receive the necessary attention, and the student may be unable to continue. It is best to start lessons when the environment is conducive to success. If you determine now is not a good time, you can always start later when the situation is more favorable.