

The Flute Studio of Binghamton
Aimée Backus, Instructor
36 James St. Binghamton, NY 13903

Studio Policies

I'm excited to make music with you! Here are some logistics to keep your lessons running smoothly.

Tuition:

- Collected at the first lesson of each month. The monthly rate for 30-minute lessons is \$120. The monthly rate for 45-minute lessons is \$160. **Cash payments receive a \$20 discount.**
- Payments received later than the 15th of the month incur a \$20 late charge.
- Your tuition reserves your place in my studio, and your payment reserves my time. If you have a conflict in any given week and cannot attend your regular lesson time, you can contact another student in the studio to swap lesson times. Credit or a make-up lesson are always offered if the instructor cancels the lesson.

Lessons:

- In lessons, we'll work on improving tone quality, technique (scales, etudes, etc), solo pieces, and sightreading. Preparation for all-county festivals, NYSSMA, and/or competitions, is also part of lessons for students who wish to participate.
- Will be held (in person) weekly during your scheduled time slot and will run for the duration of the school year, September through June. Zoom lessons are occasionally possible due to illness or transportation issues. **One month's notice is required for terminating lessons.**
- 24 hours' notice is required for canceling a lesson. **Lessons missed due to an emergency, weather, or illness are handled on a case-by-case basis.** Missed lessons without 24 hours' notice are not refunded or made up.
- I have a chemical sensitivity to most perfumes and body sprays. **Please refrain from wearing these on days when you have a lesson scheduled or we won't be able to have our lesson.**

Required materials for each lesson:

- Flute in well-maintained condition — it is difficult to make progress on an instrument that is leaking or in disrepair. I can recommend technicians if needed!
- All current music — includes technique books and solo pieces
- Flute notebook — this is where I'll take notes to help students practice and to help us all remember where we left off the last time we connected
- Foot chart (beginning students only)

Required materials for at-home practice:

- Music stand and a quiet area to practice. Make sure this area is well lit!

- Metronome and chromatic tuner — the backbone to at-home practice

Students are expected to practice in preparation for each lesson. The daily recommended practice time varies depending on the age and ability level of the student. Please consider the following guidelines for minimum requirements for daily practice:

- Beginning students - 20 to 30 minutes daily
- Intermediate students - 30 to 45 minutes daily
- Advanced students - 60 to 120 minutes daily

Recitals:

- Students have the opportunity to perform in recitals throughout the year. Each spring we have a studio recital, where students can play solo pieces with a pianist and gain experience performing. Other opportunities for flute ensemble playing occur throughout the year. Recital participation is not mandatory but highly encouraged.