

Josh Robins Policies

Version 2013- Non-adult students

The student's two basic rules of taking guitar lessons from me:

1. Play your instrument every day – even if it's just for 5 minutes!
2. Use your ears more than your eyes – if it sounds good, it is good!

Be ready for each lesson:

1. Come to every lesson on time, prepared, and in a mental state conducive to the work involved.
2. Bring your instrument and any necessary accessories (strap, pick, cables, amplifier, etc.) to every lesson.
3. Bring previous practice sheets, and music (if applicable) to every lesson.
4. Practice and Listen Every Day!

The Parent's Role and Dedicating Time to Practice

I expect parents to enable their child's progress by setting and enforcing a daily routine of productive, at-home practice. **This ideally means dedicating at least 30 minutes daily to guitar practice in which the child is not distracted by television, other activities or family members, etc.**

This certainly doesn't mean that your child should or will make progress in leaps and bounds. Progress can be slow – especially for beginners. They need time to develop the skills necessary to play the instrument and it'll take a fair amount of self-discipline and support from their parents to make it happen. It will not be instantaneous and it will certainly not happen if he or she only plays guitar during lessons or is distracted during at-home practice. **My job will be to create a mindset and provide instruction that furthers development and encourages patience while developing these new skills. Your job will be to maintain that mindset of slow but steady progress outside of lessons.**

If it's obvious to me that your child is only touching his/her instrument in lessons, I will mention it to you. If time is not made for guitar practice, I will suggest that we suspend lessons until appropriate action is taken (i.e. time is made for the student to practice daily).

If lessons are to be conducted at your location, I will need a room free of distraction and noise in order to instruct. Parents are welcome to attend lessons as long as both the student and I agree the parent's presence is helpful.

I will be in regular communication with you regardless of the location. If there is an issue regarding the lessons that you need to discuss, let's talk outside the student's lesson time. Call me at 512-656-0357.

Rates and Payment

Weekly/Bi-Weekly	
My Studio:	Your Location*
1 hour - \$35	1 hour - \$40
½ hour - \$25	½ hour - \$35
At Random	
My Studio:	Your Location*
1 hour - \$50	1 hour - \$60
½ hour - \$40	½ hour - \$50

*This rate is always subject to change with fluctuating fuel costs. I also reserve the right to increase the rate if your location is more than 10 miles (one way) from my studio.

Payment is due at the beginning of the month for which lessons will occur. For At Random students, payment is due at the beginning of each lesson.

Schedule

At Random Students

I general, I prefer to schedule At Random students 1 week in advance. However, this is called At Random for a reason and my schedule is sometimes free and I may be able to accommodate you. Please call me at 512-656-0357.

Weekly/Bi-Weekly Students

For weekly lessons, we must choose and keep a regular day and time. There will always be exceptions, emergencies, etc. and I'm happy to reschedule within reason and I will be sympathetic to things like spring break, summer trips and holidays. However, please know that my time is often limited and rescheduling can be stressful for everyone involved.

Holidays:

If your lesson time falls on a holiday that is nationally recognized as a day off (like Thanksgiving), we will simply skip that week's lesson unless you are interested in scheduling a make-up lesson and our schedules permit. You will not be charged for a holiday off. If you go on an extended trip, we will not be charged for any lessons we miss.

Cancellations and Rescheduling

Occasionally we will have to cancel due to illness, weather or emergencies (either mine or yours). In these cases, you will simply be credited for a missed day. You may use that credit to schedule a make-up lesson for a different open day/time OR simply apply it toward your next month's regular lessons.

Please let me know ASAP if you need to cancel a lesson. Before cancelling, remember that your payment is a reservation of my time and last minute cancellations essentially waste that time unless I have at least a day's notice. I will not charge for the occasional cancellation but if it starts happening repeatedly, I will charge you with less than 24 hours notice. If you need to cancel, call me at 512-656-0357.

Constant cancellation tells me that our schedule isn't working for whatever reason. I find this is usually a priority issue – the student isn't practicing or other activities/issues keep bumping guitar lessons down on the priority list. Some conflicts are unforeseeable... but I have found that most aren't. If cancellations happen with frequency, I will suggest suspending lessons.

Termination

As unthinkable as it may seem, our time together will come to an end at some point. Regardless of the reason, let's not have the discussion in front of the student. Call me at 512-656-0357 to discuss.

I look forward to helping your child reach his/her musical goals!

Josh Robins

512-656-0357

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