

JULY 2026



# THE NOTE

PRESTIGE MUSIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

As we start back to school, I want to remind everyone about the official attendance policy, listed in the terms and conditions in Opus.

All lessons are paid on the first of each month, via autopay. If paying with cash, payments are due at your lesson the week before. All ESA students are billed via email with quarterly invoices.

The busier the instructors get, the more difficult it becomes to always be rescheduling missed lessons. That is why we have limited the number of makeup lessons to 3 per semester (Aug-Dec, then Jan-May). The 3 makeup limit is for any lesson canceled by the student, for any reason, regardless of the time or reason. Any lessons canceled by the instructor will get a makeup, as well as any holiday that you wish to miss. You will not be penalized for missing on a holiday if you have other plans.

If a makeup lesson is agreed upon and the student cancels or does not show up for that lesson, it will not be made up.

The price of monthly lessons is based on having 51 lessons per year, not including the week between Christmas and New Year Day. During that week, there are no lessons and no charge. You still will be charged your regular monthly pricing for December, since the average was taken and spread across the whole year when the price was determined.

*Jennifer*

### POST SUMMER LESSON TIMES

We are now signing-up lessons for post-summer private music lessons. If you moved your time, day, or instructor this summer, or if you would like to have a different time/day for the coming school year, please see the office to make requests or arrangements for a new lesson slot.

For those students that took lessons over the summer if you wish to keep your current spot, then there is nothing further to do. If you want to change anything, please see the front office.

For the days and times not already taken, these time slots are on a first come- first served basis.

### WHAT'S NEW?

- 01 *REMINDER: Attendance Policy*
- 02 *Welcome New Students*
- 03 *Did You Know...*
- 04 *Musical Notation Basics*
- 05 *Staff Notes - Larisa D.*

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

### Students who enrolled in June 2026

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Abram V.     | Finley Y.  | Naomi B.   |
| Ashton D.    | Forrest J. | Riley W.   |
| August R.    | Hayley B.  | Ted Y.     |
| Ava Jade G.  | Leo N.     | Trystan S. |
| Bella G.     | Lillian B. | Xander R.  |
| Brody A.     | Merrick J. |            |
| Campbell B.  |            |            |
| Elizabeth W. |            |            |
| Evelyn Y.    |            |            |

## STAFF NOTES



**Bella G.**  
Piano



Welcome to the Academy! Bella completed a Piano Performance degree at NAU under the study of Dr. Silvan Negrutiu. Under Dr. Tiantian Liang, she has also earned the Piano Pedagogy certificate.

Please visit her bio on our website [here](#). If you are interested in taking lessons with Bella, please contact the office.

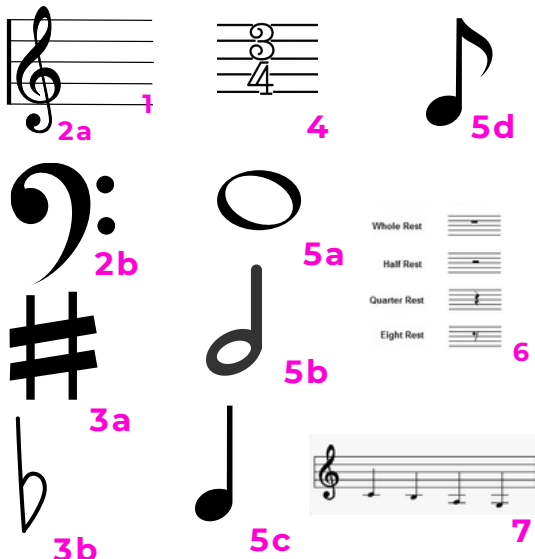
## DID YOU KNOW...

Time spent learning to play music acts as a full-body workout for the brain, completely rewiring neural pathways and offering cognitive benefits that last a lifetime.

### The Brain's Ultimate "Full-Body Workout"

- **Simultaneous Brain Engagement:** Playing an instrument is one of the few activities that activates both hemispheres of the brain at the exact same time.
- **Rapid Brain Changes:** Children show noticeable, positive structural changes in their brains after just 15 months of consistent music lessons.
- **Perpetual Youth for Minds:** Learning music fights aging by prolonging neuroplasticity and creating new mental connections, even if you start after age 50.
- **Audio "Noise Filters":** Musical practice trains the brain to comprehend speech clearly in loud, chaotic environments.

## MUSICAL NOTATION BASICS



1. **Staff:** The five horizontal lines on which notes are written.
2. **Clefs:** Symbols that indicate pitch range:
  - a. **Treble Clef (C<sub>1</sub>):** Used for higher-pitched instruments and voices.
  - b. **Bass Clef (C<sub>2</sub>):** Used for lower-pitched instruments.
3. **Key Signature:** A set of sharp (#) or flat (b) symbols that define the key of a piece.
4. **Time Signature:** Indicates how beats are grouped in a measure (e.g., 4/4, 3/4, 6/8).
5. **Note Values:** Indicate the duration of a note:
  - a. **Whole Note (C):** 4 beats
  - b. **Half Note (C):** 2 beats
  - c. **Quarter Note (C):** 1 beat
  - d. **Eighth Note (C):** 1/2 beat
6. **Rest Values:** Indicate silence in music.
7. **Ledger Lines:** Short lines above or below the staff to notate extra-high or low notes.)

