**Oboe Lesson expectations and guidelines for parents**

Ashley Rollins

1. If a student will be absent, please try to provide as much notice as possible. I reserve the right to charge for no-shows if I was not given notice beforehand (24 hours’ minimum for situations that are neither emergencies nor surprises; I am of course willing to be more flexible in emergency situations, illnesses, etc., but please do let me know as soon as you can.) If reasonable notice is provided, there will of course be no charge. I will do my best to hold to the same guidelines, and if I fail to follow them for a before or after school lesson, will offer a free lesson in return. Naturally, any lesson that cannot happen for any reasons other than no-call no-shows on your part will NOT be charged.
2. If you will be more than 10 minutes late to a lesson, please let me know that you are on your way, if possible. After approximately half of our lesson time has passed, I may assume you just aren’t coming, and move on to my next school, otherwise.
3. I will always try to send invoices around the first week of each month. Please try to send payment soon after receiving the invoice/near the beginning of the month. I understand life can get in the way of such things (for both of us), and I tend to be pretty lenient about this, but I do reserve the right to add a small late fee of $5 per month if you fall more than 8 lessons (two months) behind on payments.
4. If possible, please try to avoid leaving lessons mid-semester. Again, I completely understand if this becomes necessary (moving, family emergencies, etc.), but due to the complexity of scheduling students and the small numbers of oboes in most ensembles (it is common for me to have well over 60 students across about a dozen campuses), it often leaves me with an unusable hole in the middle of my workday, and I would prefer to avoid such a situation if reasonably possible.
5. Quality equipment is necessary for success on oboe, especially reeds. Therefore, I highly recommend students plan to get 3 new reeds each month from a high-quality source (i.e. Bocal Majority). Some students do manage okay on 2 reeds per month, though it’s less safe, but any less than that is very likely to cause problems. While students can experiment with other reed sources if they choose (Oxford reeds, Blue Bonnet reeds, Wildflower reeds, etc.), I do highly recommend Bocal Majority, who will, at this time, even let students try out reeds in their Richardson store. However, be aware that most reeds that can be found in a music store, with the exception of Bocal Majority’s shop, are unlikely to be at all trustworthy. Reeds to AVOID include Jones, Rico, Martin Lesher, Singin’ Dog, and Emerald.
6. Students who practice consistently tend to make more progress and enjoy lessons more. Students will have material they should practice for lessons, whether it is their region etudes, their solo, the beginner book, or scales and etudes I’ve assigned.