

ITASCA
ORCHESTRA & STRINGS
PROGRAM

Student Lessons Policies
2018-2019

Lessons

Music instruction for a student in grades 2-12 includes 27 half-hour lessons and weekly after-school orchestra rehearsals. When possible, lessons are during the school day at a student's school in small groups or individually. Students may take the bus from their elementary schools to the Robert J. Elkington Middle School (RJEMS) to attend orchestra practice in the band room. Rehearsal times are noted on the calendar on our website. Cellos and basses are not allowed on school buses and must be dropped off at the school by parents and guardians. Lessons are also available for adult students! Lessons for adults will take place in our new lesson room in the Reif.

Payments

- Payment for the full year is greatly appreciated but may be made in 8 installment payments invoiced monthly at an additional cost. Payments are made at the time of registration online at www.getlearning.org. If you are choosing to pay in installments, we will invoice you monthly and you may go and pay online at www.getlearning.org.
- For individuals choosing to pay in installment payments, payments are due at the beginning of the month. However, because students are still signing up in the first week of October, the first payment is due October 15. The remaining 7 installment payments must be paid by the first of the month: November 1, December 1st, ect. Monthly invoice reminders will be emailed to households.
- The IOSP program is a full-year commitment. The tuition is for the full year and must be paid even if the student drops the lessons.
- Tuition payments do not include merchandise sold to students, such as lesson books or replacing broken strings.

Delinquent Payments

After the third delinquent payment, parents/guardians will be notified by mail that lessons will be discontinued unless full payment is made within seven days. Parents/Guardians will still be responsible for the balance for the year.

Financial Assistance

The Itasca Orchestra & Strings Program (IOSP), through donations and grants, maintains a fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to provide families with qualifying incomes for the Minnesota Education Credit a no-interest loan covering 75% of tuition and instrument rental costs. The IOSP will explain each step and provide the required documentation to file and utilize the credit. The MN Education credit will pay 75% of your student(s) tuition and instrument rental, the student(s)' family is responsible for paying the final 25% owed. Families complete a Minnesota Revenue Department M300 Form to assign a portion of the families' refund to the IOSP account at the Grand Rapids Area

Community Foundation until the balance loaned to the family is paid. This means some refunds are paid years after the IOSP has loaned the money.

The Scholarship Application is incorporated into the Registration Process available at www.getlearning.org.

Registration

Registrations submitted in the spring of each year guarantee a spot for next year's program. Fall registrations are processed on a first come, first served basis. Families owing any tuition, rental, or merchandise fees from the previous year will not be allowed to register for next year's classes until payment is fully made. Registration is available online at www.getlearning.org.

Instrument Rental

IOSP has instruments available for rental at the following monthly rates:

Violins \$15

Violas \$15

Cellos \$25

Basses \$30

Attendance

IOSP maintains a calendar at www.itascaorchestra.org. Click on Calendar. If school in ISD 318 is cancelled, then lessons and student orchestra practices are cancelled.

Parents must email your student's lesson teacher if a lesson will be missed for **any** reason.

Make up lessons will only be given if a teacher misses a lesson.

Regular attendance at student orchestra rehearsals is encouraged. The director may determine when a student has missed too many rehearsals and not be allowed to perform with the orchestra in concert.

Practice

The only way a student will ever improve is with practice! If a student simply attends their lessons and orchestra rehearsals without putting in any of their own individual practice time, he or she is not reaping the full benefit of participation in our Strings Program. Generally, 20-30 minutes most days is a good basis, with shorter time for beginning students, but if your student only has a few minutes, a few minutes is much better than not practicing at all.

Concert Dress

There are two student concerts at the Reif Center. Dress for girls and boys is all black including shoes and socks.

Last updated 8/20/2018