

Rajan Panchal Studio Policies

Tuition and Payment

Lesson tuition is due at the beginning of each month. Advance payment helps reserve your lesson time and ensures consistency throughout the semester. I offer lessons at \$80/1 hour \$60/45 min, and \$40/30 min.

If you require a different payment schedule, please communicate with me in advance. I am happy to work with students and families to find an arrangement that meets their needs.

Scheduling and Lesson Frequency

Lessons are offered on either a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Weekly lessons are strongly recommended, particularly for younger students and developing oboists. Due to the technical and physical demands of the oboe, consistent instruction generally leads to the greatest progress.

Students choosing bi-weekly lessons should schedule lessons of at least 45–60 minutes in length to allow sufficient time for instruction, technique development, reed discussion, and repertoire work.

Attendance and Make-Up Lessons

Life happens, and occasional cancellations are understandable. If you need to miss a lesson, please provide at least 24 hours' notice via email, text, or phone call.

Students are eligible for up to two make-up lessons per semester when sufficient notice is given. Beyond two absences, additional make-up lessons cannot be guaranteed.

Exceptions may be made in cases of illness, family emergencies, severe weather, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Lessons canceled with less than 24 hours' notice are generally forfeited and will not be rescheduled.

Student Responsibilities

Private lessons are most effective when students arrive prepared and ready to learn. It is my expectation that students come to each lesson having practiced their assigned material and with all required lesson materials.

Students should bring:

- Oboe in working condition
- Reed case with at least two working reeds
- Method books and assigned music
- Pencil

- Lesson journal or notebook
- Reed accessories (reed case, reed soaker, plaque, etc., as applicable)

While unforeseen circumstances occasionally arise, students should make every effort to arrive on time, or preferably 5–10 minutes early, so that we can make full use of the scheduled lesson time.

Practice Expectations

Consistent practice is essential for musical growth.

Beginning students (approximately 1–3 years of experience) should aim to practice 20–30 minutes per day, 4–5 days per week outside of school ensemble rehearsals.

Intermediate and advanced students (approximately 3+ years of experience) should aim to practice 30–60 minutes per day, 5–6 days per week.

Students will typically be assigned a combination of scales, technical exercises, etudes, solo repertoire, reed work, and musical preparation each week. While I am happy to assist with band, orchestra, youth orchestra, and audition music, private lessons are intended to develop the broader skills necessary to become an independent and successful musician. Lessons should not be viewed solely as tutoring sessions for school ensemble music.

Reed Expectations

The reed is a critical component of the oboe, and students are expected to maintain at least two functioning reeds at all times.

Reeds are inherently fragile and unpredictable. Maintaining multiple playable reeds allows students to practice consistently and avoids emergencies before lessons, rehearsals, auditions, and performances.

Students who need assistance acquiring reeds should communicate with me well in advance whenever possible.

Reed Purchases and Adjustments

Handmade student reeds are available for purchase at a discounted price to who study with me.

Because reeds require significant preparation time, reed orders should be placed at least one week in advance whenever possible.

I am happy to make adjustments to reeds purchased from me. Reeds obtained from other sources may require additional adjustment time and may not always be suitable for the student's individual needs.

Students are encouraged to communicate reed concerns early rather than waiting until a reed becomes completely unusable.

Reed Making Lessons

As students become more advanced, learning the fundamentals of reed making can become an important part of their development as oboists.

Reed-making instruction is generally recommended for high school students and above, though readiness varies by individual student.

Beginning reed-making lessons typically require additional lesson time due to the complexity of the process. Scheduling options can be discussed based on the student's goals, experience level, and availability.

Instrument Care and Maintenance

Students are expected to maintain their instruments in reasonable playing condition.

While I am happy to assist with routine maintenance and minor adjustments, professional repairs such as pad replacement, crack repair, cork replacement, and major mechanical adjustments should be performed by a qualified repair technician.

Students should never attempt significant repairs or adjustments themselves, as even minor changes can affect the instrument's mechanical regulation.

If an instrument requires repair, I am happy to recommend qualified repair technicians.

Music and Educational Materials

Students may be required to purchase method books, etude collections, solo repertoire, reeds, and other materials as needed for their level of study.

Whenever possible, I will provide digital copies of assignments while materials are being ordered or shipped.

I strive to minimize unnecessary purchases and select materials that will continue to be useful throughout a student's musical development.

My Commitment as Your Teacher

As your teacher, I am committed to providing a supportive, challenging, and encouraging learning environment.

I will help students develop strong fundamentals, effective practice habits, musicianship, reed knowledge, and performance confidence. Whether your goals include school ensembles, youth orchestra, honor bands, college auditions, professional performance, or simply personal enjoyment, I will work to provide the guidance and support needed for success.

Learning the oboe is challenging, but it is also incredibly rewarding. I am committed to helping every student build the skills, confidence, and independence needed to succeed as a musician.