

Lesson Policy

The current tuition is \$18 for a half-hour lesson, \$20 for 40 minutes, and \$30 an hour. This is subject to change. Lessons are paid monthly and are expected to be held weekly. The number of lessons varies according to how many weeks that I will be available. It can be 3,4, or 5 depending on the month. Please check your calendar to find how many lesson days there will be.

The student or financially responsible party will pay for the full month of lessons in the first week of each calendar month. The student's first month of lessons may be prorated for the amount of weeks left in the month depending on when we start. Payment may be made by cash, check, Paypal, or Venmo.

I offer a one-time trial lesson for 40 minutes at \$20 so that you can experience my teaching before committing to a month. If you wish to do this then please ask before our first lesson.

There is no reduced tuition, refunds or credits for lessons missed by the student but some rescheduling, make-ups and vacation time is expected (see below).

Make-Ups

Make-up lessons can be requested when adequate notice is given. Make ups can be given in person or via Zoom. It is the student's responsibility for inquiring about make-up lesson eligibility and to help schedule a time that will work for both of us. A make-up lesson can be done at a later date as long as it's within a couple of months time-frame.

1. Some notice should be given for cancellation of the lesson if a reschedule or make-up lesson is to be considered. If no notice is given at all then the lesson is considered forfeited by the student.

2. If there is inclement weather and roads are deemed dangerous for travel then lessons may be canceled in which case the lesson can either be made up at a later date, rescheduled, or possibly credited to the next month.

3. If you or a child are sick then please cancel! I am more than happy to make the lesson up at a later date. If you think you're sick or have been exposed to someone who might be ill, we can still do lessons or make-ups online via Zoom. Please don't take unnecessary risks!

4. Not practicing is not an acceptable excuse for cancellation. Even if you didn't have a great practice week I guarantee that you will still learn something during the lesson and it will not be a waste of time for either of us. Obviously, you don't want every week to be that way but some of the best lessons I've given were in this exact scenario, so please show up anyway!

5. If I have to cancel a lesson, and the full tuition has already been paid, I will credit the amount of that lesson to the next month. If I know well in advance that I will miss a lesson during the next month then I will have you pay only for the scheduled lessons.

6. Lessons on major holidays will not be charged. I don't teach the weeks of Christmas and New Years for example. Also, I usually take Wed.-Sat. off for Thanksgiving. Of course, this also applies to other holidays that you may wish to take off and spring break if desired. Just let me know what's going on beforehand so I can plan on your absence.

7. If you are going to miss 2-3 weeks in a row once in the course of a year due to vacation (with adequate notice), you will not be charged. If you will be gone for a longer period of time and wish not to pay for your time slot, I will need to open your time up for someone else and find a new spot for you on your return.

8. If your child is taking lessons then please feel free to attend lessons. If your child is relatively young and you don't have any experience playing the guitar then I would encourage you to attend at least occasionally so you can help out at home. Please make sure and contact me periodically to discuss how your child is doing. This is especially important if I don't see you often at the lesson.

At least two weeks notice is appreciated when canceling lessons completely so that I may have time to put a student in your time slot. A month's notice is preferred. Please remember that this is how I make my living.

Please try to make it to your lesson as often as possible. I generally find that people that miss a lot of lessons often don't do very well with the guitar, so this policy helps to create the best environment for learning.

I should also mention that I don't usually schedule lessons back to back because that's something I've always disliked about teaching at music stores. I don't want either myself or the student to feel rushed. I often go a little over the allotted lesson time if I feel the student needs more time to understand a concept, so I schedule some free time between lessons so that I can do this and take a quick break. This allows me to give the highest quality lessons possible.

If you have any further questions then please feel free to email me at jamesstephensguitar@gmail.com or call me at (816) 682-0226.

Thank you,

James Stephens

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