

HCMS is a program of the Thornapple Arts Council. TAC aims to spark creativity, community, and culture through programs and education that bring personal enrichment and quality of life to Barry County residents.



HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENT/FAMILY HANDBOOK



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PROVIDING QUALITY MUSIC EDUCATION

Hastings Community Music School
200 South Boltwood
Hastings, MI 49058
269.948.9441

AVAILABLE LESSONS

HCMS offers lessons in electric, acoustic, classical, and bass guitar. Other lesson options include violin, viola, cello, piano, voice, percussion, drums, ukulele, trombone, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute, recorder, harmonica, and accordion. Lessons are available in person or virtually via Zoom.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Tuition payments may be made weekly, monthly, or in full at the beginning of the term. Virtual lessons must be paid in advance.

Lessons are \$20 per half hour, \$30 for 45 minutes, and \$40 per hour. There is a \$10 registration fee per person per school year. Lessons may be terminated for nonpayment.

REFUND/WITHDRAWAL POLICY

There are challenges and successes with learning any new instrument. We ask students and families in regular lessons to commit to a full term to work through the ups and downs of musical education. We also offer special classes, group lessons when appropriate, and short-term tutoring.

To withdraw, a student or parent must contact the HCMS office. *Nonattendance or notice to the instructor is not sufficient notice of withdrawal.*

STUDENT AND TEACHER ABSENCES

Registering for private lessons at the Hastings Community Music School is a commitment of a designated weekly time for student and teacher. Please check your family schedule carefully when registering to ensure that you will be able to keep that commitment.

1. If a teacher cancels, or weather dictates HCMS cancel, prepaid lesson(s) will be credited to student accounts at term end unless other arrangements are made for a make-up lesson.
2. Student cancellations must be communicated to the HCMS office at least three hours prior to the lesson time on the day to be cancelled. Failure to contact the office will result in the lesson being charged to the student's account. No-shows and lessons cancelled with less than the three-hour notice time may not be made up or credited.

A make-up week is available at the end of fall and winter terms for eligible make-up or rescheduled lessons.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Hastings Community Music School closes when Hastings Area Schools do. Please check online at the HCMS Facebook page, WBCH, Channel 3, or Channel 8 for announcements of school closings due to weather.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to perform to further their skills. HCMS offers a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year at the school and in the community. Please contact your teacher or ask the office staff for more information.

EVALUATIONS

Students receive a written progress report from their instructor in the fall and winter terms. With the teacher's permission, parents/caregivers are welcome to sit in on their child's lesson. Please contact the teacher first with any concerns or questions you have, remembering that lesson day is not usually the best time for an extended conversation, as the teacher may have other students waiting.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Tuition and fees do not cover the total cost of HCMS programs; fundraising events and other community and state resources also help cover costs. One of the main HCMS fundraising events is an annual student event from which all proceeds benefit HCMS programming. All students are asked to take part as they are able.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Thornapple Arts Council and the Hastings Community Music School are committed to providing the safest environment possible for our students, staff, families, and the community. To that end...

- all teachers and staff members complete background checks and fingerprinting.
- there are plans in place that provide for the safe evacuation of the building if necessary.
- the HCMS sanitation policy regarding COVID-19 is compliant with the most recent guidelines provided by the CDC, Michigan Department of Education, gubernatorial executive orders, and the local Barry-Eaton Health Department.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

PRACTICE LENGTH

Students need consistency in practice. A minimum of four days a week is recommended to maintain a student's level of learning. To improve and grow, five to seven days a week are recommended.

Children four to eight years of age should practice ten to fifteen minutes twice a day. Beginning students, ages nine and up, need twenty minutes of practice a day. Intermediate students should practice at least thirty minutes a day, advanced students an hour a day.

PRACTICE METHOD

Here are some ideas for your practice time:

- Warm Up/Technique
- Work on tough spots
- Play a familiar piece or passage
- Count carefully
- Listen to tone production
- Play for a family member or friend

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Your student needs evidence of your support to achieve the most from their lessons/classes. Encourage children by listening to them and courteously asking permission to comment. Remember that mistakes are all part of learning, and that showing interest and support is different from making your child feel like every practice is a performance.

HCMS TEACHERS AND STAFF

LEARN ABOUT US

The Hastings Community Music School has a talented group of teachers and support staff! Read teacher and staff bios and learn more about the people who keep the music going at HCMS.

