

December 13, 2024



Good morning,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you of some important updates to our policies and tuition structure at Black Hills Studios of the Arts (BHSA). These changes come in order to address the needs for grant qualification, in turn keeping the ability to provide quality instruction at an affordable rate. With much thought and consideration, the BHSA Board has approved these changes and they will take effect on January 6, 2025.

Key Updates

1. Calendar Adjustments

- To ensure consistency across the week, our calendar will no longer follow the school calendar as closely as before. This change guarantees the same number of lessons for all students, regardless of their lesson day.

2. Tuition and Payment Options

- **Semester Contracts:** Starting January 2025, all students will enroll in semester-based contracts. Suspension and terminations mid-semester will no longer be permitted.
- **Mandatory ACH Payments:** All payments will now be processed via ACH (Automatic Clearing House) for better efficiency.
- **Flexible Payment Plans:** If paying the full tuition upfront is not feasible, we offer a monthly installment plan with a \$3/month administrative fee.
 - **Half-hour lessons:** \$430/spring semester or \$89/month (\$258/summer; \$344/fall)
 - **One-hour lessons:** \$610/spring semester or \$125/month (\$366/summer; \$488/fall)

3. Make-Up Lessons Policy

- Students will be allowed one make-up lesson per semester. Please ensure timely (24 hours notice) communication if a lesson needs to be rescheduled. However, if the instructor is absent, the lesson will be made-up.

4. Simplified Pricing

- Prices now include sales tax for transparency and ease of payment.

Our Commitment to You

By addressing the previous challenges we've had with our former structure, we aim to create a more sustainable and equitable environment for our students and their families. We believe in and are committed to enhancing access to music instruction. We look forward to the coming year! Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we strive to provide the best possible experience for our students and families.

Warm regards,
Mallory Dekker
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