



Sunshine Strings Studio

Studio Policy and Registration Handbook

2026–2027 School Year

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Welcome

Welcome to the Sunshine Strings Studio! Thank you for your interest in string/piano lessons. We are excited to work with your child and help foster a lifelong love of music! Please review the following policies carefully and electronically sign where indicated to complete your child's registration.

Studio Philosophy

Sunshine Strings Studio is committed to providing high-quality music instruction in a supportive and encouraging environment. Consistent lessons, daily practice, and regular listening are essential for steady musical growth.

Students are encouraged to:

- Practice regularly between lessons.
- Listen frequently to assigned repertoire.
- Participate in performances and ensemble opportunities, especially the Sunshine Strings Orchestra.
- Develop discipline, confidence, creativity, and teamwork through music study.

Suzuki recordings and Sunshine Strings Orchestra music will be available through the studio website for student use.

Research has shown that music education can support the development of attention, concentration, confidence, memory, emotional intelligence, language skills, mathematical thinking, resilience, self-expression and social skills.

2026–2027 School-Year Lesson Schedule

Students enrolled during the school year participate in:

- **36 private lessons annually**
- Lessons held between **August 24, 2026 and June 3, 2027**
- This includes a total of 36 lessons in 9 months. When it's June, if you haven't had 36 lessons, you will get the remaining lessons in June (provided you gave 48 hours' notice, see below).
- Lessons are also offered during the summer on a per-lesson basis.

Studio Calendar (2026–2027)

The following breaks are observed during the school year:

Break	Dates
Thanksgiving Break	November 23–29, 2026
Winter Break	December 21, 2026 – January 4, 2027
February Break	February 8–15, 2027
Spring Break	March 26 – April 5, 2027

Calendar dates are subject to adjustment if necessary. If your child's school has different breaks than these, we will work with you.

Tuition & Payment Policy

2026-2027 School Year Monthly Tuition Rates

Tuition is due on the **1st of each month**.

Preferred payment method: Credit Card Payment through Fons/MakeMusic. Once you register your information with Fons/MakeMusic, you will receive a reminder ahead of time, and your card will be charged automatically. This system is easiest for us and for you.

A **\$20 late fee** will be applied after the 7th of the month (for example, if your card expires).

Lesson Length	Monthly Tuition	Potential In-Home Lesson Tuition (depending on drive time)
30 Minutes	\$240/month	\$280 to \$320
45 Minutes	\$300/month	\$340 to \$380
60 Minutes	\$360/month	\$400 to \$440

Ensemble Rehearsal Fees (when applicable)

Rehearsal Type	Fee
Duets	50% per student
Trios/Quartets	33%-25% per student

Ensemble rehearsal fees are payable during the week of the rehearsal.

Referral Discount: Ask about our one-time **\$20 “Refer a Friend” discount**.

In-Home Lesson Service (Ultra-Premium Service)

In-home lessons are available for families who require this option.

Travel Fees

A monthly travel fee will apply based on distance and driving time.

Service	Fee
In-Home Travel Fee	\$40–\$80/month, depending on drive time.

Additional notes:

- Only one travel fee is charged for families with multiple siblings.
- Travel fees may be reduced when several students are scheduled within the same area.
- Families requesting in-home lessons should remain flexible regarding lesson scheduling.

Whenever possible, we encourage the lessons to take place at the Sunshine Strings Studio in Pompano Beach.

Attendance & Commitment Policy

Families agree to:

- Arrive on time for lessons, rehearsals, and performances.
 - Support consistent home practice.
 - Maintain respectful communication with teachers.
 - Commit to the full academic year whenever possible.
 - Parents understand that musical progress develops gradually and becomes more evident over time with consistent practice and attendance.
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Makeup Lessons, Absences & Emergency Cancellation Policy

Student Absences

Regular attendance is essential for steady musical progress. If a student must miss a lesson, please notify the teacher as early as possible.

- Lessons missed by the student or family are generally **not refundable**.
- Makeup lessons may be offered at the teacher's discretion when adequate notice is provided.
- Makeup lessons are not guaranteed and are subject to teacher availability.
- Missed ensemble rehearsals, orchestra rehearsals, and performances cannot be made up.

Advance Notice

- At least **48 hours' notice** is requested whenever possible.
- Illnesses and emergencies will always be handled with understanding and flexibility whenever feasible.

Makeup Lesson Policy

When a makeup lesson is approved, it may be offered in one of the following formats:

- A video of your child playing the current repertoire may be submitted to, and evaluated by, the teacher.
- An alternate lesson time
- An online lesson
- An extended future lesson when scheduling permits

All makeup lessons must be completed by the end of June unless otherwise arranged.

Insufficient notice, no-shows or missed makeup lessons cannot be rescheduled or refunded.

Teacher Absences

If a teacher must cancel a lesson for illness, emergency, performance obligations, or professional reasons, families will be offered one of the following:

- A makeup lesson
- An online lesson

Teacher-canceled lessons will never be charged without a makeup option.

Emergency & Weather Cancellations

Safety is always the priority.

Lessons may be canceled or moved online due to:

- Severe weather
- Hurricanes or tropical storms
- Unsafe driving conditions

Whenever possible, families will be notified promptly regarding schedule changes.

If schools are closed or weather conditions are unsafe in Broward or Palm Beach Counties, lessons may:

- Be moved online, or
- Be rescheduled at the teacher's discretion.

Online Lesson Option

If a student is mildly ill, traveling, or unable to attend in person, an online lesson may be offered instead of canceling whenever appropriate and technologically possible.

Families are encouraged to keep a device and internet connection available for occasional virtual lessons.

Sunshine Strings Orchestra

Participation in the Sunshine Strings Orchestra is very highly encouraged! We encourage each student to bring a music stand and an iPad to rehearsals and performances. We also encourage each student to have access to a [Newzik](#) account (some students already have them through school, others don't...please ask us)

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals are generally held:

- Weekly on Sunday evenings
- Occasionally on Friday evenings
- Locations are TBD

Schedules may vary slightly throughout the year.

Orchestra Tuition

Student Type	Annual Tuition	Optional Payment Schedule
Current Sunshine Strings Studio Students	\$400/year	\$200 due September 1, 2026; \$200 due January 5, 2027
Students Studying Elsewhere	\$500/year	\$250 due September 1, 2026; \$250 due January 5, 2027

Orchestra tuition includes the December and May concerts (**TENTATIVELY December 6th and May 3rd**).

Performances and Festivals

Sunshine Strings Orchestra Concerts

Two Orchestra concerts are planned each year: One in December and one in May.

Additional Performance Opportunities

Additional performance opportunities may include:

- January recital (**TENTATIVELY** the week before Federation District Festival)
- Florida Federation of Music Clubs (FFMC) District Festival
 - (**TENTATIVELY** last two weekends in January)
 - FFMC State Festival (May 7th&8th in Tampa)
- Please see calendar of events for information about these and other events (coming soon).

Please note:

- Additional fees will apply for Festival registration and for accompanists.
- Ensemble rehearsals may be recommended for duets, trios, and quartets.
- Ensemble rehearsal and accompaniment fees are divided equally among participating families.

Families are encouraged to avoid scheduling vacations during major concerts and festival events whenever possible.

Withdrawal Policy

We hope that all the Sunshine Strings Studio families will love their lessons and want to continue through 12th grade and beyond! However, if a family wishes to discontinue lessons, the studio requires:

- **30 days' written notice** prior to withdrawal.
- Tuition payment during the notice period.

Written notice must be submitted **before the first day** of the student's final month.

Please complete this
REGISTRATION AND POLICY ACCEPTANCE FORM
as well as the
LESSONS/ORCHESTRA SCHEDULING FORM

as soon as possible!

Remember to push submit for both forms!

We cannot schedule your lessons until both are completed.

Thank you, and we look forward to making music with your children!!