

# Sammamish Rock Band Policies

## 2023-2024 School Year

### **Tuition:**

Tuition is paid in 9 monthly installments of \$250 from October through June. Total tuition for school year: \$2,250.

Rock band lesson 60 minutes

There are built-in non teaching weeks, which follow the Issaquah School district calendar.

- Weekly lessons October-June with option to continue at that rate through the summer if slots available
- Two required concerts, included in tuition
- All monthly fees paid are non-refundable. Please keep in mind that there is a 30-day cancellation policy should you need to withdraw.
- I ask that students commit to their class for the academic year, with allowance to move to a different class within the schedule should it be deemed necessary. This policy ensures minimum disruption for all our students and families.
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### **Lesson Attendance:**

Students are signing up for a seat in the class for the school year. Students are expected to attend every class of the year. If a student needs to miss a class (i.e., sickness, bereavement, or emergency) they should request the lesson materials of their missed work. **\*\*Yearly tuition is not adjusted on a per class basis and is the set rate for the school year\*\***. If a student feels they are falling behind, private tutoring classes can be discussed with me on a case by case basis. Please give as much notice as possible if you are going to miss a lesson. The best way to communicate this is to text me at (206) 972-3959.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE: \*\*Illness Policy\*\*** Please do not come to lessons when you are ill. If you are too sick to attend school/work, you are too sick to come to lessons. Because this is a serious matter, those students/families who do not honor this policy are subject to dismissal from the studio.

### **Practice:**

Regular practice is strongly encouraged and will dramatically change how well and fast the student is learning. Students will be sent home with practice items and sometimes be required to complete a homework assignment.

### **Technology in the Studio:**

It is preferred (but not required) that students have a device with which they can access the internet to retrieve pdf files of their music, i.e. smart phone, iPad, or tablet. Students will need to access their email and PDF files, preferably using the GOOGLE CLASSROOM app or website. It is preferred to also have paper copies of sheet music printed in a binder. Please bring to class.

### **Music/Materials:**

The student will receive a practice pad to practice rhythm. This is included in the tuition, but needs to be returned at the end of the school year. If the practice pad is damaged or lost, a replacement fee of \$25 will be billed to replace the item. In order to sign up, students must either already own, buy or rent their chosen instrument that the student is playing in class. Parents are welcome to rent an instrument from the studio, but buying is strongly encouraged.

**\*\*Students are required to wear ear protection anytime the acoustic drum is played.\*\*** Ear protection will be available at the studio but it is suggested that the students bring their own.

### **Vacation/other commitments and non-studio activities:**

If you decide to take time off from lessons for vacation or involvement with an athletic or school activity schedule, please be advised; Your monthly tuition installment effectively “holds” your spot in the schedule and must be paid to hold your spot. Missing more than five scheduled lessons in the school year is subject to dismissal from the studio (this will be evaluated on a case to case basis. I would love it if every student had a chance to learn and enjoy the Rock Band, but since the students are playing together as a group, poor attendance affects other students).

### **Performance Opportunities:**

Concert participation is required. Since each band member is an integral part of the music being made, it is imperative that everyone be at the concerts. There will be two scheduled performances, one in February and one in June. Depending on schedule and venue availability more concerts will be encouraged and or given as an

opportunity to the band. The concerts will feature other players as well and families and guests of the Rock Band are asked to arrive at the beginning of the concert and stay to the end to support the other players.

**Concert Dress Code:**

Music is a personal expression and I believe clothing is too. Students are encouraged to wear anything that makes them feel the most “them.” This is a safe and judgment free space.

**Piano or Digital Piano:**

For proper technical development, students should be playing a full-scale keyboard (88 keys) on either an acoustic piano or a digital piano, which has a weighted-action. Use of other types of electronic keyboards severely compromises the student’s development of finger strength, spatial awareness of intervals, keyboard touch, and use of pedals.

**Guitar:**

Left handed students are strongly encouraged to play with a “right” handed guitar. This is because the guitar is inherently an ambidextrous instrument. The vast majority of guitar materials are written for the “right” handed guitar. Most guitars are built for left hand fretting and right hand strumming. They will be fighting the system using a left handed guitar. I have yet to encounter a left handed student that struggles with guitar because of their handed-ness. If they strongly feel otherwise, exceptions can be made.

**Drum:**

Students are required to wear ear protection anytime that they are playing the acoustic drum set. Drummers should not wear flip flops as this can impact their ability to play the foot pedals.

**Piano Tuning and Maintenance:**

Regular Piano tuning and maintenance is essential to a student’s aural and technical development. Home piano should be tuned a minimum of every six months. I recommend Max Wood (718) 781-8474.

**Lesson Preparedness:**

Piano and guitar students’ fingernails (both hands for piano and both or just the left hand of guitarists) must be trimmed short to play with proper finger position. Students should trim their nails weekly. Nail clippers are kept in the studio, and used when necessary. You may be asked to wash your hands before coming to the instruments. Students should not attend lessons when they are ill.

**Photo and Video Release:** Student pictures and videos of piano performances may be used for promotional purposes unless a parent submits a written request to have the photo or video withdrawn.

**Termination of Lessons:**

Dismissal from the studio can occur from poor attendance, lack of preparation for lessons, behavior issues, or non-payment of tuition or other expenses. *If a student decides to leave the studio, an industry standard 30-day notice to the teacher is expected.*

***Thank you for taking time to read the studio policies! Welcome to the Sammamish Rock Band!***