



February 17, 2022

Dear Westwood Prodigy Program Families:

I hope 2022 is off to a good start for you and your families. I am writing with two important announcements.

Tuition Increases Effective 2022-23 School Year

Since 2018, the Prodigy Program has not increased tuition in order to keep our lessons affordable for our students. In order for us to continue offering a robust, relevant, and high-quality music program, it has become necessary for us to increase tuition. The Westwood Public Schools have approved a phased-in tuition increase for Prodigy Program private and semi-private lessons that will go into effect as follows:

Lesson type	Current tuition	2022-23 tuition	2023-24 tuition	2024-25 tuition
Semi-private	\$15.85	\$20	\$22	\$25
30 minutes	\$25.06	\$30	\$32	\$35
45 minutes	\$39.56	\$45	\$47	\$50
60 minutes	\$52.73	\$58	\$60	\$63

Tuition assistance will remain available for eligible families.

Clarification of our Absence/Make-Up Policy

In order to address confusion regarding the Prodigy Program’s current Absence/Make-Up policy, we have made some clarifications in the policy. Effective immediately, the updated policy is as follows:

1. Private Lessons: Students are entitled to make up lessons for **two excused** absences. Excused absences are those in which (i) the student has provided at least 24 hours

advance notice to the instructor, or (ii) the student is ill and cannot attend the lesson (whether or not 24 hours notice is provided). Absences for **any other reason** are not excused and are forfeited. More than two absences of any kind are forfeited.

2. Semi-Private Lessons: Because semi-private lessons involve other students, lessons are not made up when a student is absent.
3. Classes: Because classes involve other students, lessons are not made up when a student is absent.
4. A teacher's absence from a lesson or class will be made up by the end of the school year.
5. All lessons missed because of school closings for religious holidays or inclement weather will be made up.
6. Tuition credits or refunds will be provided for long-term illness or injury.
7. Students/parents must notify their respective teacher of any absence in advance of the scheduled lesson.
8. Teachers must be contacted directly (not through the Prodigy Program Coordinator).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about either of these matters or the Prodigy Program.

Best regards,

Marlene Markard
Director, Prodigy Program