



## 2023-2024 Student Teacher Program (STP) Lesson Policies

Welcome to the Medisky Oboe Studio Student Teacher Program! Membership in the STP includes:

- Weekly private lesson with a Medisky Oboe Studio student teacher
- Participation in studio recitals
- Access to studio activities, such as reed-making classes or guest master classes
- Inclusion in the Medisky Oboe Studio monthly e-newsletter, *The Studio Reeder*
- Assistance in purchasing new instruments

### **LESSON PAYMENTS**

#### **Lesson Rates\***

First-year teacher = \$12

Experienced teacher = \$15

\* Travel fee = \$5 (If the teacher travels to the student's house, lesson rates increase to \$17 / \$20.)

#### **Payment Options**

Lesson payments can be made either monthly or on a per lesson basis, depending on student and teacher preference. Please discuss in advance the best options for payment such as Venmo, Zelle, checks, or cash.

Payment should be completed the day of the lesson, preferably before it occurs. If a lesson is unpaid, the Student Teacher is not obligated to continue with lessons the following week until all payments are complete.

### **IN-PERSON LESSONS**

Students should arrive at the scheduled lesson time. Your lesson time includes assembling your oboe and packing up, and students should do so carefully but efficiently.

#### **Wellness Precaution**

If you feel any cold or flu symptoms, please **DO NOT come to your lesson**. Text or email in advance of your lesson to reschedule or switch to a online lesson for that week.

### **ONLINE LESSONS**

Online lessons may be conducted on Zoom or Forte Studio ([fortelelessons.com](https://fortelelessons.com)). An online lesson begins at the scheduled lesson time. Please be ready to join the lesson at your lesson start time, by already having your oboe assembled, reeds soaked, and assigned materials out.

Computers usually have the best audio quality, though not always. If you have any connectivity issues during the lesson, here are some solutions to try:

- Move to a room that is closer to your modem
- Restart your router
- Try connecting with a newer device (a newer tablet may work better than an old computer)

## **LESSON SCHEDULING**

### **Lesson Scheduling & Frequency**

Scheduling lessons is done directly between the student and the Student Teacher. Weekly lessons are best for consistent instruction and for the student's progress. It is expected that some weeks may not work out, and/or that make up lessons will be necessary. Please be respectful of each other's time and give each other as much notice as possible when cancelling and making scheduling changes. It is recommended that you confirm the following week's lesson each week.

### **Cancellation Policy**

12 hours notice is requested for all lesson cancellations, both for the student and Student Teacher. A no-show may result in a forfeited lesson for the student, and the Student Teacher is not obligated to reschedule. If the Student Teacher is a no-show, please let Laura Medisky know. Unexpected things happen, and please be as communicative as possible if you do need to cancel the day of the lesson. Scheduling make up lessons is strongly encouraged, though not always possible.

## **LESSON EXPECTATIONS**

Private lessons are meant to complement and enhance the work in school band class. The Student Teacher will address oboe-related issues, and students will be assigned weekly materials including scales and songs or etudes from their assigned book. The assigned material doesn't need to be perfect, but students should be prepared to play assigned scales and songs to demonstrate the work they've done between lessons.

## **PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

Students in their first two years of playing should practice 3-5 days per week. This is a time to work on specific things discussed in lessons, and students will learn practice techniques to guide them so they have an idea how to use their time.

### How much to practice each day:

- 1st year students: 15-20 minutes
- 2nd year students and beyond: 20-30 minutes

### What to practice each day:

- Scales
- Book assignment
- Other music as assigned
- Band music

## **MATERIALS**

Students must own the following:

1. **Reeds** - always have at least two working reeds in your case
2. **Swab** - weighted silk pull-thru swabs are best (ask Laura for recommendations)
3. **Tuner & Metronome** - purchase at a music store, or use an app on your phone or tablet
4. **Assigned music** - oboe method book
5. **Lesson notebook** to write lesson assignments

Students must bring the following to each lesson:

1. Oboe, in playable condition
2. One working reed to play on, plus one back-up reed
3. Assigned book
4. Lesson notebook

### **Oboe reeds**

A good, working reed is essential for consistent, beautiful playing. Here are Laura's recommendations for beginner reeds:

Best brands: **Lesh** or **Emerald**

Hardness: **Medium** (Medium soft is only acceptable for first few months of playing)

Advanced reeds: ask Laura or visit [www.lauramedisky.com/reeds-and-supplies](http://www.lauramedisky.com/reeds-and-supplies)

Reeds do not last forever, and typically have a lifespan of 2-3 weeks max! Store them carefully and keep them clean and dry after playing to help them last longer. A reed may be a month old and "still make noise," but we are looking for quality sound, not just any sound!