

# WKSA Policies and Other Information

## WKSA Attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend as many rehearsals and classes as possible to ensure an educational and ensemble experience of the highest quality. WKSA understands the complex and busy nature of students' schedules, and has crafted an attendance policy which balances the need for regular rehearsal attendance with the need for flexibility. Students may miss three Saturday rehearsals per semester. After four absences, the student's orchestra director/guitar instructor has the authority to bar the student's participation in that semester's concerts, based on the student's ability to play their music. The student will be allowed to remain in the Academy and participate in future WKSA activities and performances. WKSA staff should be notified in advance when a student will be absent.

## Private Lessons

All WKSA students are required to take private lessons. WKSA Private Lessons will be taught at FHSU Malloy Hall, due to liability issues. If a teacher needs to miss a lesson, it will be obligatory for the lesson to be made up. If a student misses a lesson without advance notification to the teacher, the teacher is not obliged to reschedule the lesson. If the student cancels a lesson in advance, it will be at the student and teacher's discretion as to rescheduling. Students who consistently miss private lessons may be dismissed from the String Academy without refund. Artist-faculty will keep time sheets of their teaching throughout the course of the semester. Students' parents must sign/verify these records at the end of each semester.

## School orchestra participation

All WKSA string students (violin, viola, cello, and bass) are required to participate in their school's orchestra program, if available and age appropriate.

## Saturday Morning Check-In

Students are expected to check in at the WKSA Table (typically located directly outside of the Music Department office) when they arrive each Saturday morning. Students are expected to stay in Malloy Hall while String Academy is in session. If students need to leave before the end of their rehearsal time, they should let staff know before they leave the building.

## WKSA Staffing

WKSA orchestras, ensembles, classes and private lessons are taught by a mix of FHSU Music Department faculty, FHSU music students, and qualified community musicians. FHSU music students teaching in the Academy participate in a weekly Pedagogy class taught by FHSU music professor Ben Morris-Cline. Student instructors are regularly evaluated by WKSA staff, and receive a financial stipend for their involvement. The WKSA project provides FHSU music students a valuable, real-world experience of teaching string instruments to young students, better preparing them to become music educators once they graduate.

## Parent Communication/Involvement~

Parents are important to WKSA's ability to provide a high quality music education program. WKSA staff sends weekly communications to parents on WKSA activities and concerns. Parents are encouraged to share any concerns, suggestions and feedback with their student's director, private teacher, or WKSA staff. In addition, students and parents are asked to complete satisfaction surveys at the end of each semester. WKSA staff uses survey feedback to improve programs and evaluate staff performance.

WKSA parents are also asked to assist with activities such as staffing the Snack Shack, selling ads in the concert program, organizing socials, and assisting with the Spring tour. Sign-up forms are passed around on registration day.