Stolfe’s Portside Percussion Studio Success Guide

The intent for this success guide is to provide a framework for each of my students. However, to make sure that I have the resources available to maintain my teaching practice, I must operate it as a business.  I would teach drums for free, but I do have to charge for my time. Time is valuable to everyone. I will do my best to accommodate all schedule conflicts.

My goal is for each student to attain success with each lesson in an enjoyable and educational format.  Drumming is FUN! It also requires hard work, commitment and consistent effort.  With these elements, drumming will be even more FUN!

**Practice Expectations**

Yes, I do expect all students to PRACTICE!  However, I do not define practice as a few minutes of practice crammed in prior to a lesson!  We’ve all tried...it just doesn’t work!

Early on, I present a structured method for each student to practice the materials we are working on.  Practice assignments are given with the expectation that students will practice **consistently** during the week, at least 3-4 days per week. Minimum expectations ***per percussion instrument studied*** are as follows:

* 5-10 minutes warm-up/scales/rudiments
* 10 minutes etudes/solos
* 5-10 minutes assigned exercises in books
* 5-10 minutes sight reading (or additional technique/solo work)

**Equipment & Materials to obtain**

All percussionists and drummers should always be equipped with the proper tools for the job. Minimally, each student should own the following:

**Sticks (5B) for drum set** (optional Snare Drum sticks)

**Stick Bag** (recommended)

**Bell Mallets** (grade school/middle school students only)

**Music Note Book or staff paper**

**Pencils** (sharpened)

**Method Books /Solo music** (I will let you know as these are needed)

**Music Stand** (kept at home)

**Metronome w/ear phone jack** (kept at home)

**3-ring binder with clear plastic inserts** for handouts and copied exercises

As I typically wait one year (minimally) with beginning students before I teach drum set, do not give in to the temptation to rush out and buy a drum set prematurely.  Please ask me if you have any questions regarding this. For the serious percussion student, it is more important to own/rent the following before a drum set:

**Snare Drum**

**Practice Pad**

**Bell Kit or Student Xylophone**

**Lesson Payment Structure /Rates (effective October 2016)**

* Lessons are to be paid for **monthly**, by the **first** lesson of each month.  Invoices will be sent out prior to the first lesson of the month. Invoices may be paid online via provided link or in person. Failure to pay may result in forfeiture of scheduled lesson time.  Accepted payment methods are cash, credit/debit card or check payable to “Stolfe’s Portside Percussion Studio.”
* All lesson slots are prorated on an annual basis. Rates are based on a maximum of four lessons per month:
	+ $85/month – 30 minutes
	+ $130/month – 60 minutes
* Any teacher cancelled lesson will be made up or credited to the following month at my discretion.  If a student discontinues lessons for any reason, advanced lesson payment will not be reimbursed.  Feel free to contact me regarding balances or questions.

**Lesson Attendance**

Consistent lesson attendance is critical for student success and progress.  Most percussion studios and music lesson studios rarely allow for make-up lessons.  Therefore, it is imperative that students and parents make lessons a priority in their schedules.

 I do realize that serious, irresolvable conflicts do arise on rare occasions.  Therefore, please use the following as a guide for excused cancellations. These are the only excused absences that can be made up:

* Cancellations due to illness should be received by **10:00am on the day of the lesson.**
* Lack of preparation for a lesson or busy schedules **are not** suitable reasons for excused absences.
* Rescheduling done with proper notice should be scheduled by contacting me directly.

I can be reached at 262-818-1173 or by e-mail at portsidepercussion@gmail.com.  Either way is acceptable for cancellations and each has time/date stamp abilities.  Whenever possible, please notify me of vacations when you pay for lessons at the first lesson of the month.  Lessons during some holidays may be rescheduled without penalty for absences.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and support of music education!

John Stolfe

Stolfe’s Portside Percussion Studio

Percussion/Drum Instructor

262.818.1173

portsidepercussion@gmail.com

http://www.stolfepercussion.com

I have read and understand the studio policies:

Student Name:      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_               Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Parent signature required if student is under the age of 18 years old)

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_