

Remote/Online/Zoom Instrument Lessons Q & A:

How do remote/online lessons work?

A pro version of the Zoom platform is used (Zoom is a secure video conferencing tool). Once a student's lesson has been scheduled, the teacher will email the parent an invitation for the Zoom meeting that will contain a special private link for that student's lesson. When it is time for the lesson, simply click on the link in the email from the teacher. Please keep in mind that remote instrument lessons with an individual student are much different than a regular school classroom teacher teaching a class of 20 or more students over Zoom.

What steps are taken to help ensure that uninvited guests can't access a lesson?

In addition to the security features that are utilized in the pro version of Zoom that we use, the emails sent by the teacher to parents contain a unique link that is only shared with the student's parent. Furthermore, the lessons use the Waiting Room feature, and only the teacher can start a lesson and admit a student from the virtual Waiting Room. Once the student has entered the Zoom lesson, the meeting will be locked, and no one else will be able to enter.

Do I need to create a Zoom account for the online lessons, and do I need any special software?

No, DO NOT create a Zoom account (an account is not needed). There is no software that you have to download to a computer (the exception to this is if you are using a mobile device, in which case you would need to install the Zoom app).

Is any kind of special equipment needed for online lessons?

No, just the camera and microphone that is built into your computer or mobile device, and a good stable internet connection.

What should my child have for their online lessons?

Their instrument, a music stand (or other suitable place to put their music), a pencil, and their sheet music (or music book). The room should be well lit, and as distraction-free as possible. The webcam should be adjusted so that the student's instrument is visible.

What if I did not receive the Zoom link for my child's online lesson.

Lesson links will be emailed in advance by the lesson teacher. If for some reason, you do not receive it, please email the teacher so they can re-send it.

What if there are technical problems, such as our device or internet access is not working or is very unstable at the time of the lesson?

Occasionally things like this happen. The teacher may be able to work out a time with you to reschedule the lesson.

What is the purpose of MusicAlliance recording the lessons?

The lessons are recorded for safety and quality monitoring purposes only. Recordings will not be used for any other purpose and will not be shared externally. The recordings will be securely archived for 1 year and then deleted.

Will my child still receive an online lesson if the lesson day falls on a day their school is not in session?

Lessons will not be held on scheduled school vacation days (such as Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, and Easter Break). If the child's school is closed due to a non-vacation reason (i.e. no heat, snow day, etc), there may still be an instrument lesson scheduled for that day (contact your child's lesson teacher if you are not sure), the same applies if there is a day off from school due to teacher in-service meetings. Always contact your child's lesson teacher if you are not sure.

What should I do if my child needs to change their online lesson time either temporarily or permanently?

Please contact your child's lesson teacher as soon you become aware of the need to change the lesson day/time. The teacher will do their best to accommodate making a change, but keep in mind that there may be limited availability, with regards to other time slots, due to the number of other student lessons that the teacher has.