

Jesse Baker Trumpet Studio Policy

2026–2027

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Overview

Please read this policy carefully and reach out with any questions or concerns before enrolling in lessons.

Teaching Philosophy

The purpose of my teaching is to share the musical knowledge and passion I've gained over the years with students eager to learn. I reference books, methods, and techniques learned from my own teachers while incorporating my personal experience as a musician. Trumpet lessons are offered to students of all ages and experience levels.

For any student learning an instrument, the ultimate goal is to create music that both the performer and the listener will enjoy. That is the reason we call ourselves musicians: to entertain, to enjoy, and to have fun. As musicians, the reason we spend time learning and practicing is to develop the skills necessary on our instrument in order to produce the best music possible, in the most efficient way possible.

My approach focuses on giving students the tools and materials they need to succeed on their own. I am here to motivate, guide, and provide structure. The foundation of trumpet playing lies in strong fundamentals—producing a full, resonant sound; breathing; focused airflow; ear training; tonguing; lip flexibility; finger dexterity; and range development. I spend a good amount of time in each lesson, particularly with younger students, on fundamentals, as they are crucial for proper development. We then take these fundamentals and learn to successfully employ them in songs, etudes, repertoire, band music, etc.

The process of improvement varies from student to student. What works for one may not work for another. Together we create a system of practice tailored to the individual student — the objective is not only to reinforce correct practice and performance methods, but to guide each student on a path they can eventually take on their own.

Lesson Locations

Lessons are offered at the following locations:

- **Jackson's Music Store — Douglasville, GA** (after school)
- **Hillgrove High School** (after school)
- **Villa Rica High School** (during band classes)

Required Equipment

Students must have the proper equipment for lessons:

- Trumpet and mouthpiece
- All assigned books or an iPad/tablet
- Cleaning and maintenance supplies (at home)
- Music stand (at home)

Teaching Resources

Fundamental/technique and etude books are assigned based on each student's level and goals. Materials may include books by Clarke, Arban, Irons, Stamp, Schlossberg, Bai Lin, Chichowicz, Gekker, Getchell, Concone, and others.

Student & Parent Expectations

Students are expected to practice assigned material at home and arrive at lessons prepared and on time.

Practice Expectations

Consistent practice is essential for progress. Do your part so that our time together can be the most beneficial to you. A helpful guideline:

- **30-minute lesson → 30 minutes of daily practice**
- **45-minute lesson → 45 minutes of daily practice**
- **60-minute lesson → 60 minutes of daily practice**

I highly encourage splitting practice into shorter sessions throughout the day. We will talk about this in detail in lessons on how to go about it. If you must miss a day of practice, be smart and practice for a longer stretch next session.

Teaching Dates

Teaching days are **Wednesdays and Thursdays**, from **August 12 through May 20**. Lessons occur weekly, excluding holidays and school breaks. Dates follow the Carroll, Cobb, and Douglas County school calendars.

Fall Semester (Aug–Dec 2026)

Wednesdays (17)	Thursdays (17)
Aug 12, 19, 26	Aug 13, 20, 27
Sept 2, 9, 16, 23 (Carroll & Douglas only), 30	Sept 3, 10, 17, 24 (Carroll & Douglas only)
Oct 7, 14 (Cobb only), 21, 28	Oct 1, 8, 15 (Cobb only), 22, 29
Nov 4, 11, 18	Nov 5, 12, 19
Dec 2, 9, 16	Dec 3, 10, 17

Spring Semester (Jan–May 2027)

Wednesdays (18)	Thursdays (18)
Jan 6, 13, 20, 27	Jan 7, 14, 21, 28
Feb 3, 10, 24	Feb 4, 11, 25
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
Apr 14, 21, 28	Apr 1, 15, 22, 29
May 5, 12, 19	May 6, 13, 20

Total yearly lessons: 35

Make-Up Lesson Policy

If I must miss a scheduled lesson, I will notify the student/parent at least **24 hours in advance**, excluding emergencies. I will make up the lesson at a mutually agreed time.

If a student must miss a lesson, the same guideline applies: a minimum of 24 hours notice. Failure to provide notice results in forfeiture of the lesson, excluding emergencies.

The student's make-up options include:

- A make-up lesson (limit **2 per semester**) at a mutually agreed time
- Switching with another student's lesson time if feasible (schedule available upon request); this may mean taking two lessons in one week, which is fine
- Sending video recordings of assignments/questions for review that week

I cannot reschedule a lesson without 24 hours notice.

If a student cancels a lesson for any reason, the same monthly tuition amount is still due. This policy is out of respect for your schedule, my schedule, and the schedules of other students - I can best serve my students when my schedule is set and consistent each week.

Monthly Tuition

Tuition is a flat monthly rate that reserves a student's weekly lesson time. The yearly lesson total is divided into equal monthly payments, so tuition remains the same regardless of whether a month contains 3, 4, or 5 lessons.

Tuition is due on the 1st of each month. Payments received after the 5th incur a \$10 late fee.

Because lessons begin August 12th, **the first payment is due by August 9th to enroll in normal tuition.**

Tuition Breakdown

Lesson Length	Rate per Lesson	Yearly Lessons	Monthly Tuition
30 min	\$40	35	\$140.00
45 min	\$55	35	\$192.50
60 min	\$70	35	\$245.00

5 monthly payments per semester (10 total for the school year).

Late Enrollment

Students enrolling later in the school year will have tuition calculated based on remaining lessons and remaining monthly payments:

{Remaining lessons × Lesson rate ÷ Remaining monthly payments = Monthly tuition}

Example:

Enrolling in January for 45-minute lessons with 16 lessons remaining:

$$16 \times \$55 \div 5 = \$176.00/\text{month}$$

Payment Methods

Accepted payment methods:

- Zelle (phone/email)
- Venmo (@JesseBaker)
- Cash App (\$TrumpetJB)
- Cash or check

Hillgrove HS students pay the school directly.

As stated earlier, late payments (more than 5 days late) incur a **\$10 late fee**.

Cancellation Policy

If you choose to discontinue lessons, a **30-day notice** is required. Tuition remains due during that 30-day period.

Example:

If today is April 25 and you request to end lessons starting May 1, the full May tuition is still owed.

Summer Lessons

Summer lessons take place outside the normal school-year calendar, mainly June and July. Some students may have make-up lessons in June at no additional cost. For all others, summer lessons are offered individually and paid per lesson.