

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO FOR ONLINE LESSONS

1 MINDSET

Cultivate a mindset of curiosity and exploration - let them know this is going to help them learn and be an exciting new adventure! If they have heard doubts or negativity from the parent in advance of the lesson, they will be much less likely to cooperate and their minds will be closed going in.

2 PREPARATION

Read your teacher's directions for online lessons really carefully and prepare everything in advance. Test your lesson area set up with all devices, audio, internet connections, etc.

3 PRACTICE

This goes for in-person lessons too. If your child hasn't practiced or prepared for the lesson, then a video lesson of "Play it again. No, again. Again" isn't going to be fun for anyone. Check and double check the assignment sheet, and make sure your child has practiced everything on it.

4 LEARN TO TUNE YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT OR HELP THEM TUNE IT THEMSELVES

For string students, there's a great guide on Violinist.com that helps beginner parents demystify the tuning process. Watch this well in advance of your first online lesson and be prepared to start the tuning process before your lesson time.

5 NOTE TAKING

Decide with your child who is taking notes and marking the music during the lesson, and how it will be done. Print out any assignment sheets the teacher has sent for you to use. Send PDFs or photos of previous assignments to the teacher before the lesson for them to see.

6 TEACH YOUR CHILD HOW TO OPERATE THE METRONOME

Or be prepared to operate it themselves

7 BE OPEN TO THIS NEW PROCESS

Keep an open mind so that your child can continue to learn and progress. You will also be supporting your teacher during this uncertain time so that he/she will be here ready to resume in-person lessons when the time comes.

8 PREPARE A BACK-UP PLAN *(in case the technology fails on one end or another)*

The point of your child's lesson is for them to get information from their teacher about their learning. Can you video the rest of their lesson and upload it unlisted to YouTube so your teacher can watch it later? Do you have burning questions about practice or violin that didn't get answered? Those can probably be done via email. Have back-up plans ready, and be ready to be flexible remembering that your teacher likely has other online lessons scheduled before and after yours.

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