



Student Information

543 Ockley Drive
Shreveport, LA 71106
318-841-8428
www.aftafbcs.org



Instruction Opportunities

Fall and Spring Terms

Students may enroll in private lessons at the Academy for one or both terms of an academic year. If a student does not wish to continue lessons into the next term, please notify the Director at least 30 days in advance. If notification is not received, the student's enrollment will continue.

Students enrolling after the start of a term will pay a prorated tuition, based on the start date of lessons. The Registration Fee will remain the same throughout the academic year.

Private Instruction

We offer lessons ranging from 30-60 minutes at various times, based on availability.

Audition Preparation

This is four 30-minute or 60-minute private lessons for four consecutive weeks. No Registration Fee is required, but payment in full is required at time of registration.

- 30 minutes = \$150 total per 4-week session
- 60 minutes = \$300 total per 4-week session

1 time coaching - we offer 1-time coaching for auditions and special events. These will typically be 30-60 minutes. Tuition will be at a rate of \$1 per minute of the lesson/coaching.

Students at FBCS that are taking weekly lessons through AFTA must enroll in audition preparation sessions/coaching for all activities outside of regularly scheduled lessons. Regular lessons are focused on developing the students skills with a consistent, pedagogical approach. Other activities, such as Musical auditions, fall outside the scope of weekly lessons and will be scheduled at a separate time.

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Group Instruction

Kindermusik

Kindermusik is a group class that meets for 45 minutes, 1 day per week. The cost is \$40 per student for the entire session. Students must be potty-trained and between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. Classes are taught by a Kindermusik certified instructor.

Summer Session

Students are not required to participate in the Summer session. Not participating in the Summer session will not affect students' ability to re-enroll in the Fall or Spring semesters.

Summer session dates and availability will be determined by individual teachers. Lessons will not be scheduled on holidays or any time outside of AFTA operating hours. Please contact the AFTA office at info@aftafbc.org or speak with your teacher for more information regarding the Summer session.

Middle and High School Drama Class

We are excited to offer a new drama class this year! Middle and high school students will meet weekly for one hour to learn improvisation and acting skills. The class costs \$390 per semester, with no registration fee.

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Tuition and Fees

Registration Fee

- The Registration Fee, due at the beginning of the year, helps to cover costs associated with administration, recitals, and receptions.
 - Individual Student: \$150
 - 2 students from the same immediate family: \$250
 - 3+ students from the same immediate family: \$300

Tuition

- Tuition for lessons is as follows:
 - 30 minutes: \$35
 - 45 minutes: \$53
 - 60 minutes: \$70

Payment Policies

- The Academy for the Arts reserves the right to charge a \$25 late fee if tuition payment is not received by the 15th of the month. The Academy for the Arts reserves the right to cancel and/or deny lessons for payments not received. Students will not be eligible to enroll for the next semester if their account has an outstanding balance.
- If you have not received your invoice by the 10th of the month contact the AFTA office immediately. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to update all billing information, including contact and personal information.

Payment Options

Tuition can be paid for by semester, monthly payment via cash, check, or online, or by autodraft*. See Billing Information below.

*Enrollment in auto draft and online payments will result in a 3.5% processing fee.

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Policies & Procedures

Private Lessons

- It is important that students be on time for lessons. Students who are 10 or more minutes late for their lesson will be considered a no-show and the student will forfeit their lesson. This will be considered an unexcused absence, and the instructor is under no obligation to make it up. If you are running late, please contact your teacher immediately. Communication is of the utmost importance.
- One make-up lesson per term will be granted to each student when 24-hour notices are given by email or phone. Any lessons missed and rescheduled, excluding the one allotted make-up lesson, will be at the discretion of the teacher.
- If a student wishes to discontinue lessons, a 30-day written notice will be required. The student will be financially responsible for the lessons that occur during those 30 days, from the date notice is given, whether the students chooses to attend the lessons. A refund will be given for the remainder of lessons that occur after the 30 days if previously paid for. The Registration Fee is non-refundable.
- Parents with students that attend First Baptist Church School must notify your AFTA instructor if the student will miss their lesson due to a school-related event at least 24 hours prior to the event.
- All students are required to participate in the end-of-year recitals. Date and time will be provided by your AFTA instructor.
- Studio recitals will be given at the end of the Spring semester. All students are expected to participate in Spring recitals.

Group Lessons/Ensembles

- These classes consist of a fixed schedule of classes per term for which the student pays in advance. Because of the nature of the group class environment, we will not be able to issue refunds or reimbursements for missed lessons (excused or unexcused). We are not able to schedule make-up lessons for individuals who miss group lessons for any reason.
- If a teacher is to be absent, without a substitute, on any given class day, the class will be notified ahead of time. This class will then be rescheduled at no additional cost to the student.
- If the Academy must close due to weather or church-wide closure event, the class/lesson will be rescheduled at no additional cost to the student.
- The Academy reserves the right to cancel group classes if enrollment is below the minimum threshold.

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Holidays & Semester Breaks

The Academy for the Arts will be closed for the following holiday breaks:

- Labor Day
- Fall Break
- Thanksgiving Break
- Christmas Break
- New Years
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Winter Break
- Spring Break
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day

The Academy will be closed for school breaks according to the First Baptist Church School calendar.

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Recitals and Practices

Student Recitals

At the Academy for the Arts at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, we consider recital performance an essential element in students' development. The recital is also a wonderful opportunity for friends and family to celebrate what the students have learned, and it is an incredibly affirming time for the students themselves. For these reasons, we consider the recital a requirement for their overall artistic experience. The student will come prepared to perform a specific piece or pieces, assigned by their teacher. Students are encouraged to play from memory. The recital date will be communicated by your AFTA instructor at the beginning of the Spring term to give friends and family plenty of time to calendar the event. Please make it a priority to attend this wonderful event.

Other Performance Opportunities

Throughout the year, other performance opportunities will be provided. While attendance and performance at these events is not required, it would benefit any and all students to participate, as they will receive performance experience and affirmation of their skills. These opportunities will be announced throughout the year.

Practice

Regular practice is an essential element in refining music/artistic talents. In order to receive the full benefit of instruction, the student is expected to practice daily the same amount as the lesson time. Based on the level of the student, practice time can range from 30 minutes to 3 hours a day. Our teachers will work with students to develop a practice schedule. Teachers will provide written lesson notes and practice instruction after every lesson.

Enrollment in AFTA is competitive. AFTA reserves the right to remove a student if they show up consistently unprepared.

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Practice Hints

- Sit down with your child and look at his/her schedule. Choose a set time every day for practice. Encourage students to honor this time.
- Provide a practice setting free of distractions such as TV, phone, personal electronics, or interruptions from siblings.
- Check your child's assignment sheet at the beginning of the week to see the teacher's comment and assignments for the week.
- Check on your child's progress throughout the week. Make sure he/she has accurately recorded the amount of practice time each day.
- Make sure your child finishes any written assignments and is prepared for each lesson/class.
- Teachers will make practice recommendations based on each individual student's needs.
- Your child's teacher is here to help! If you have questions, contact your instructor via their preferred method of communication and they will be happy to assist.

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Behavior Expectations

At AFTA, we want all of our students to have a good, fun experience. In order for that to happen, students are expected to be respectful of people, spaces, and equipment.

If a student is consistently disruptive or disrespectful, the Academy maintains a three-strike policy.

- First offense: Teacher will notify parent and discuss how to help student improve. This will be a written warning, which will go in a file in the ATA office.
- Second offense: Director will contact parents. Parents will be required to sit in on lessons with student for at least one (1) lesson. The Director and parent will meet to discuss ways to improve behavior. The teacher will submit a form to the AFTA office for the file. First Baptist Church School will also be made aware of the situation (if applicable).
- Third offense: The student will be removed from AFTA. First Baptist Church School will be notified (if applicable). No refunds will be given for students removed for behavior issues.

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FAQs

What distinguishes AFTA from other music/arts schools?

Study at AFTA involves both the joy of music/arts and the discipline required to develop a student's artistic skills. Students are exposed to music and the arts and are expected to practice regularly, to learn the foundational theories of music/art, and to share their emerging talent in structured public performance or exhibition. The spaces of First Baptist Church provide a unique and inspiring setting for these goals to be realized.

What is the best age to start taking music lessons?

Most children have the necessary skills to begin lessons between the ages of 5 and 7. This enables them to begin formalized music lessons. Musical experience at an early age is extremely important in a child's development process. If you're still not sure your child should begin music lessons, we are glad to offer consultation and to allow your child to observe a lesson. While there are advantages to starting earlier, when the interest is there, it is never too late to begin music lessons.

Can I begin lessons in the middle of a semester?

Yes. Our private lessons are offered on a semester basis; however, registration for lessons is ongoing and you may begin anytime. The Registration Fee is required regardless of the time you begin lessons. Lesson charges are prorated based on the number of weeks left in the term. For more information, please see the Tuition and Fees Policy.



Can I just “try out” an instrument for a week or two at AFTA?

No. We believe that extended exposure is required for a student to discern their “fit” with an instrument. Private study is offered only in semester increments. Once you have committed to the term, understand that the commitment should be carried through. As the term nears the end, you can consider interest in another instrument. Fulfilling a commitment is not only important in music education, but is a crucial life skill. We are glad to offer consultation prior to lesson study. Class study in smaller blocks of time is offered for some instruments throughout the year.

Can I request a particular teacher for private study?

Yes. Parents may request a specific teacher for private study. We will evaluate the student’s experience, learning style, prior experience with the requested teacher, and the teacher’s schedule. For more information about our teachers, please visit our website.

Can parents sit in on lessons?

Yes. If parents want to be more involved in their child’s practice routine, or if they are concerned about their child’s behavior, they are welcome to sit in on the lesson. This is not a requirement. Some children focus better without a parent present. Feel free to discuss this with your child’s teacher.

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How much should students practice?

It is very important to have daily practice, so that the techniques practiced are retained. Consistency is more valuable than duration, especially when first starting an instrument. Based on the level of the student, practice time can range from 30 minutes to 3 hours a day. Our teachers will work with students to develop a practice schedule. For more information, please see the Practice Policy.

What if I am late or miss a lesson?

It is important that students be on time for lessons. Students who are 10 or more minutes late for their lesson will be considered a no-show and the student will forfeit their lesson. This will be considered an unexcused absence, and the instructor is under no obligation to make it up. If running close to lesson time, your student's teacher immediately. Communication is of the utmost importance. For more information, see the Policies & Procedures page.

What if I want to quit studying in the middle of a semester?

If a student wishes to discontinue lessons, a 30-day written notice will be required. The student will be financially responsible for the lessons that occur during those 30 days, from the date notice is given, whether the student chooses to attend the lessons. A refund will be given for the remainder of lessons that occur after the 30 days if previously paid for. The Registration Fee is non-refundable. For more information, please see the Attendance Policy.



What if I forget to pay for a lesson?

The Academy for the Arts reserves the right to charge a \$25 late fee if tuition payment is not received by the 15th of the month. Please contact the office if you need to arrange a later payment date. The Academy for the Arts reserves the right to cancel and/or deny lessons for payments not received. For more information, please see the Tuition and Fees Policy.

Where do I enter the building when coming to AFTA, where do I park, and is there a waiting area for family members/caregivers during lessons?

The entrance to AFTA is by the main office building off the parking lot entrance on College Street. All lessons are held in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. There is a lounge with wi-fi and a study space located in our Music Suite. Parents are asked to wait for students in the lounge during FBCS school hours or events.

Does study at AFTA include religious training?

First Baptist Church of Shreveport supports AFTA because it believes in the power of the arts to enrich a person's life and, thereby, make the world a better and more beautiful place. Although AFTA is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, neither students nor teachers are expected to profess or practice a specific religion.

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Student Registration

New Student Information (please print):

First _____ Last _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): _____

Is the registering student a minor who lives with a parent or guardian? (Circle one)

Yes, the student is a minor

No, the student is an adult

If the student is a minor, please list the name of the parent/guardian:

First _____ Last _____

Address _____

Email _____

Best Phone Number _____

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Areas of Instruction

Please circle area(s) of instruction and/or instrument(s) in which you would like to enroll.

Kindermusik (group class)

Private Lessons

Audition Preparation

Piano Guitar Violin Viola Cello Drums Ukulele Voice

How many years of previous study? _____

Please indicate your preference of lesson duration:

☐ 30 minutes

☐ 45 minutes

☐ 60 minutes

How did you hear about AFTA? _____

What school does the student attend? _____

In what grade is the student enrolled? _____

Preferred Teacher _____

Preferred Day and Time _____

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Billing Information

- ☐ Billing Address is the same as above
- ☐ Billing Address is different than above. Please print below.

Billing Address _____

I would like to pay:

- ☐ Online (auto draft)
- ☐ By check written to the Academy for the Arts
- ☐ Cash

I would like to make these payments:

- ☐ At the beginning of the semester for all of the lessons
- ☐ Monthly via the payment method above

The Registration Fee is due at the time of registration and is non-refundable.
Please see Tuition and Fees Policy for details.

Registration is only complete when payment is received, and the student/parent agreement is complete.

*Enrolling in auto draft and making online payments will result in a 3.5% processing fee.

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Student Agreement

As a student of the Academy for the Arts at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, I will:

- Be on time for my lessons.
- Obey the rules of AFTA.
- Behave appropriately while at AFTA.
- Wait quietly for my lessons.
- Bring any needed instruments and materials.
- Practice daily between lessons.
- Participate in any end-of-year recital.
- Have fun!

I, _____ (printed name), agree to abide by these requirements in order to receive instruction at AFTA. I understand that if I fail to follow this agreement, I may be asked to end my studies at AFTA.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

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06/05/2025



Parent/Guardian Agreement

As a parent/guardian of a student of the Academy for the Arts at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, I will:

- Supervise and encourage practice time.
- Pay for lessons in a timely manner.
- Attend my student's recital and stay for the duration of the recital to encourage and support all students participating.
- Be a general support for AFTA and its instructors and administration.
- Agree to abide by AFTA's policies and procedures, and affirm the Parent/Student Agreement.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Your student will not be formally enrolled in AFTA until this Agreement has been completed by all parties and the Registration Fee has been paid in full.

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Permission to Photograph

☐ I give permission for my child, _____, to be photographed at First Baptist Church of Shreveport and any of its activities and/or events, including Academy for the Arts (AFTA).

☐ I DO NOT give permission for my child, _____, to be photographed at First Baptist Church of Shreveport and any of its activities and/or events, including Academy for the Arts (AFTA).

The photographs become the property of First Baptist Church of Shreveport and AFTA and could be used in a variety of ways, including social media and advertising, such as Facebook, website, newspapers, magazines, billboards, and other forms of communication and advertising.

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

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AFTA Teacher and Student Handbooks Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review

Please read carefully before signing.

The AFTA Teacher and Student Handbooks, effective September 1, have been prepared for your understanding of the policies, practice, and benefits of AFTA. It is important to read all related documents. We reserve the right to make changes at any time without notice and to interpret these policies and procedures at the discretion of First Baptist Church Shreveport.

You agree to keep the AFTA Teacher and Student handbooks in your possession during your work as an independent contractor and to update it whenever new information is provided to you.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the AFTA Teacher and Student Handbooks and that I have read it, understood it, and agree to comply with it.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

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Fee Sheet

Registration Fee - to be paid at the beginning of the Fall Semester

- Individual Student: \$150
- 2 students from the same immediate family: \$250
- 3+ students from the same immediate family: \$300

Private Lessons

- 30 minute lessons: \$35
- 45 minute lessons: \$53
- 60 minute lessons: \$70

Audition Preparation

Audition Preparation will be four 30- or 60-minute lessons for four consecutive weeks. No registration fee is required, but payment in full is required at the time of registration.

- 30 minute lessons: \$150 total tuition per 4-week session
- 60 minute lessons: \$300 total tuition per 4-week session

Kindermusik

Kindermusik classes are \$10 per class, or \$40 per 4-week session. 3-week sessions are \$30. There is no registration fee.

Middle and High School Drama Class

Middle and high school classes are \$390 per semester. There is no registration fee.