



Prodigy Program

Westwood Performing Arts

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Welcome and Introduction

The 2024-2025 has been off to an amazing start and I hope you have been having a great year of music so far! With the holiday season rapidly approaching, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your support of the Prodigy Program. Without you, your students, and the amazing staff, this program would not exist and we are so grateful that we can support a wonderful music program in the Westwood Public Schools.

This newsletter contains few updates, notifications, and reminders about the Prodigy Program as we settle into the 2024-2025 school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email with any questions or concerns. I am here to help with anything Prodigy Program related.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and thank you for all being an important part of the Prodigy Program.

Brianna Creamer

Prodigy Program Director

Prodigy Student Spotlight

The MMEA Eastern District Auditions were held on November 2nd. Congratulations to the following Prodigy Program students for acceptance into Senior Districts. Students with All State Recommendations will audition in late January for the All-State Festival, to be held in March. Bravo students and instructors!

AJ Alex	Trombone
Nico Castro	Tenor Saxophone
Jason Delli Carpini	Jazz Trumpet - All State Recommendation (SE District)
Jack Goodwin	Tenor Saxophone - All State Recommendation
Micahel Mansour	Voice - All State Recommendation
Braedan Murphy	Baritone Saxophone
Conor Tsang	Tenor Saxophone - All State Recommendation
Deepak Viswalingam	Clarinet - All State Recommendation
Melissa Yang	Clarinet - All State Recommendation

Website, Policy Information, and FAQs

The Prodigy Program was pleased to roll out a new website last March.

The website is updated frequently and many questions regarding attendance, payments, missed lessons etc. can be found on our website.

Please make sure you bookmark or look to the following pages if you have questions. If your questions are not answered on the website, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Director.

Just a reminder that any changes to billing or lesson status (length/teacher etc.) need to be communicated first to the Director.

Prodigy Program Website <https://www.theprodigyprogram.org/>

Tuition and Fees <https://www.theprodigyprogram.org/tuition-and-fees>

Policies <https://www.theprodigyprogram.org/policies>

FAQs <https://www.theprodigyprogram.org/faqs>

JackRabbit Parent Portal <https://app.jackrabbitclass.com/jr3.0/ParentPortal/Login?orgId=506099>

Registration Statements/Tuition Payments

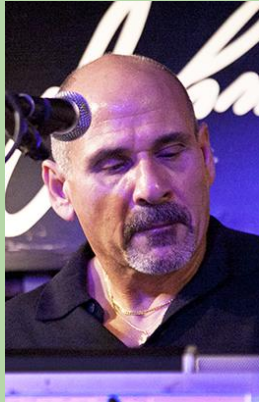
In early January, I plan to send out invoices to families to confirm their account balances. My intention in doing so is to provide families with important account information and to identify and resolve any account discrepancies that may exist.

- **If you have already paid your family's tuition in full** you will not receive a statement. Thank you for your payment!
- **If you have already issued a partial payment** for the current school year, this should be reflected on the statement you receive. All remaining tuition balances will be due on February 1, 2024.
- **Families participating in the Monthly Payment** will continue to have payments applied through the remainder of the school year. No additional payments are necessary at this time and you do not need to take any further actions with respect to payment.
- **If you have a past-due balance on your account**, please contact me immediately to make payment. If you believe your past-due balance is an error, kindly let me know.

To make a payment or change your family's billing/account information, please click this link: <https://app.jackrabbitclass.com/jr3.0/ParentPortal/Login?orgId=506099>

Prodigy Faculty Updates

This Fall, we welcomed three new faculty members to the Prodigy Program: Harry Bedrossian (piano), Maxwell Parker (flute/clarinet/saxophone), and Dr. Hannah Staudinger (oboe/english horn/bassoon).



Harry has taught music in the public school system as well as teaching piano privately for over 35 years. His teaching expertise and knowledge of music theory are in the idioms of classical, jazz, classic rock, and world music. He can be heard performing and recording throughout the Northeast in various venues with a focus in world and middle-eastern music.

Maxwell has been playing woodwinds for over 20 years. He holds a degree in Music Education from UMass Dartmouth. His musical career began in the 3rd grade on alto sax. For most of the last decade, Mr. Parker taught in the Brockton Public School system, specializing in middle school instrumental music. You can find him playing in pit orchestras with local theater companies including the Massasoit Theater Company, New Bedford Festival Theater, and high schools in the South Shore.



Hannah is an freelance oboist and educator based in Boston, who performs regularly across the New England area. Hannah is also an experienced educator who is interested in the cross section of education and repertoire. Hannah currently teaches an active oboe studio of all ages, ranging from middle school to collegiate players. Hannah holds a Doctorate and Master's from Boston University, and Bachelor's degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.



A Friendly Reminder About Attendance Policies

In the interest of student progress, and with an effort to maintain a degree of fairness for both families and lesson instructors, the Prodigy Program previously established policies regarding lesson attendance, cancellations, and make-up lessons.

Established weekly lesson times are bound to flex at various points throughout the year due to illness, school holidays, weather cancellations, etc. Since both students/families and instructors have a mutual investment in their music lessons and classes together, the Prodigy Program has asked families and instructors to agree to certain guidelines in the event of a missed lesson or class.

Our **current Absence and Makeup Policy** is set forth below. Please click [here](#) to read all of the Program's policies.

1. **Private Lessons:** Students are entitled to make up lessons for **two excused** absences. Excused absences are those in which (i) the student has provided at least 24 hours advance notice to the instructor (not the Prodigy Program Director), or (ii) the student is ill and cannot attend the lesson (whether or not 24 hours notice is provided). Absences for **any other reason** are not excused and are forfeited.

More than two absences of any kind are forfeited.

2. **Semi-Private Lessons:** Because semi-private lessons involve other students, lessons are **not** made up when a student is absent.
3. **Classes:** Because classes involve other students, lessons are **not** made up when a student is absent.
4. **Teacher Absence:** A teacher's absence from a lesson or class will be made up by the end of the school year.
5. **School Closings and Holidays:** All lessons missed because of school closings for religious holidays or inclement weather will be made up.
6. **Credits and Refunds:** Tuition credits or refunds will be provided for long-term illness or injury. There are no credits or refunds for class lessons or semi-private lessons.

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