



ST. CECILIA
ACADEMY

St. Cecilia Academy Conservatory of Music 2026-2027 HANDBOOK

Mission Statement

St. Cecilia Academy *Conservatory of Music* is a music lessons program operated by St. Cecilia Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. The SCA Conservatory of Music seeks to provide excellent musical training in vocal and instrumental music, and even music recording techniques, for students on the Dominican Campus and surrounding Nashville areas. Numerous studies have shown that music engages all areas of the human brain in ways that many other pursuits cannot. “Music provides a total brain workout!” (Johns Hopkins Medicine)

*More than that, music adds joy to life!
Human beings were created for music!*

Our commitment to all students and families is to provide excellent training by highly competent musicians and instructors who have studied and performed with their chosen instruments for decades! Together, we hope to build in each student an ever-growing love of beauty, order, creativity, and accomplishment that will lead to more faith in the created world and lasting confidence in themselves. Each Conservatory teacher has pursued continuing education in the best pedagogical practices from around the world and across the centuries.

As a faculty, we make the following commitments to our students and families:

- To provide a joyful experience in the learning process
- To foster mutual respect between teachers and students
- To stay in touch with current and long-standing methodologies in both performance and practice to become ever more proficient and effective teacher.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

- All registrations and payments are to be completed online, through our website www.stcecilia.edu.
- Overbrook and SCA students will be billed online thru FACTS.
- Non-Overbrook and SCA students will pay by check.
- Registration is not complete until payment is received.
- Registration includes 15 weeks per semester, due at the beginning of the semester.
- The Fall Semester begins during the week of August 17, 2026
- The Spring Semester begins during the week of January 11, 2027.
- One medical and one media release per student must be returned as part of the registration process.

ATTENDANCE and EMERGENCY CLOSURES

- Each student must attend all of the lessons for which he or she has registered. Missed lessons cannot be made up. If a member of the Conservatory faculty is absent, these make-up lessons may be coordinated with the instructor.
- The Conservatory of Music will close whenever St. Cecilia Academy is closed.
- If there is an unanticipated school closure (i.e. weather) the teacher may choose to reschedule after a closure at his/her discretion or have an online lesson, but the makeup lesson is not guaranteed.
- Due to teacher contracts, we cannot issue refunds.

SCHEDULE

FALL SEMESTER

- **8/17-8/21:** First Week of Classes
- **10/12-10/16:** Fall Break (No Classes)
- **11/24-11/27:** Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
- **12/7-12/11:** Final Week of Classes

SPRING SEMESTER

- **1/11-1/15:** First Week of Classes
- **3/15-3/19:** Spring Break (No Classes)
- **3/22-3/26:** Holy Week (No Classes)
- **5/3-5/7:** Final Week of Classes

ALLERGIES

- Please report all allergies on the medical release form, and please have any important medications within reach.

ARRIVING AND IN THE STUDIO AREAS

- No food or drinks (except water) are permitted in the studio area or Legacy Hall.
- Please arrive on time for lessons. Instructors occasionally run late, but it helps if everyone arrives a bit early so the domino effect does not occur!
- Please leave backpacks in the hallway outside Legacy Hall against the walls.
- There is parking behind the Music Wing, and a doorbell near the steps will gain you entrance. Some instructors want parental presence in their lessons especially in the Suzuki program. Others would prefer parents wait outside. If a parent would like to sit inside, there will be some chairs in the hallway outside Legacy Hallway.
- Students in Grades 3 – 6 from the Overbrook School will be picked up and walked over for lessons by their teachers (during lunch and after school), and these details should be worked out between parents and instructors, as well as with Overbrook School.

COMMUNICATION

- Please use email. The Director's email is kurekc@stcecilia.edu.
- Instructor emails are listed with their bios on the website.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- Each instructor will have his/her own approach to materials. Some use textbooks and others use a variety of sources. The instructor may be able to order these for you, or direct you to the appropriate place at which to purchase them.

PERFORMANCES

- All violin students prepare two recitals, one per semester.
- Each of the other teachers will decide on the best way for his/her students to finish each semester or year.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Your instructor will schedule private lessons for mutual convenience. These will take place in our studios, or possibly in Legacy Hall, depending on the volume of the instrument.

FACILITIES

The St. Cecilia Academy music facilities have been recently renovated. Our new spaces include an acoustically designed Recital Hall (Legacy Hall) that doubles as a classroom. There are four designated music studios (or practice rooms) in the hallway complete with pianos, and a brand new Recording Studio. Other equipment includes a 9-foot Estonia Grand Piano in the recital, along with two digital pianos. Please do not bring water bottles or liquids of any kind near these especially sensitive instruments or near any of the recording equipment.