

# 2025/2026 Student Handbook

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[fbcwf.org/academy](http://fbcwf.org/academy)



## INTRODUCTION

The Music Academy at First Baptist Church is staffed by Christian instructors, qualified and competent in their individual areas of expertise. Operating as a branch of the Blended Worship Ministry of First Baptist Church, FBC Music Academy provides an environment where Christ is honored and students are challenged to develop their God-given talents for the glory and service of God.

*It is our goal to:*

### **Provide excellent training in music.**

The Music Academy provides high quality private lessons available to children, youth, and adults. **Regular practice** is expected in order to make progress.

### **Provide a spiritual environment for the student.**

The Music Academy seeks to develop a student's self esteem, interaction, personality, skills, and accomplishments in a Christian atmosphere with Christian instructors.

### **Act as an extension of the Blended Worship Ministry of First Baptist Church.**

The Music Academy seeks to build bridges between the community and the church, maintaining a standard of excellence in all we do.

Before 5 PM, all students and faculty must enter through main church entrance (double glass doors, directly off 9th Street next to Historic Sanctuary).

After 5 PM, all entry doors, including main entrance, are locked at 5 PM. Your teacher will share with you a door code to be used for entry after 5. This code is for scheduled lesson times only.

Individual instructors will share their contact information with each student at their own discretion.

Rachel Kapelski, Academy Director

940-723-2764 (main Church no.), Ext 2152  
rkapelski@fbcwf.org

**The Registration Form and Student Handbook can all be found on the First Baptist website: [fbcwf.org/academy](http://fbcwf.org/academy)**

Lessons offered by The Music Academy of First Baptist Church are **open to adults or children** desiring to begin or continue music instruction. Enrollment is open at all times throughout the year. Private instruction will be adapted to the student's age and experience. In certain instances, an instructor may determine that a child is too young to start on an instrument. These evaluations are made on a case-by-case basis.

Private instruction consists of one 30, 45 or 60-minute lesson per week. Please understand that this is not a supervised practice session; students should be committed to practice on their own time in order to reach their goals. **Parents are encouraged to attend lessons or wait just outside the door (within hearing distance).**

**Private instruction available:**

- ◆ Flute
- ◆ Guitar or Electric Bass
- ◆ Percussion or Drum Set
- ◆ Piano
- ◆ Voice
- ◆ Saxophone or Clarinet

## ENROLLMENT/ REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

- Student inquiries should be sent to our Academy Director, Rachel Kapelski (X2152), who will connect the student/parent to an instructor.
- **Parent/student must complete a registration form to turn into their instructor who, in turn, will submit to the Worship Office. Online Academy form can be found at [fbcwf.org/academy](http://fbcwf.org/academy).**
- **Registration fee** is to be paid **on or before the first lesson each semester, to be given to your instructor.** The fee is \$20/per semester (maximum of \$40.00 per household each semester), payable to First Baptist Church.

*All students, whether new or returning, **must register each semester, provide a registration form and submit the registration fee.***

## DRESS CODE

We require all Academy participants to dress neatly, modestly and appropriately for their lessons on church campus. Appropriate recital attire is required for recital performances.

## ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

Beginning and ending dates for the fall & spring semester are determined by each individual studio instructor within the timeframes indicated.

- **2025 Fall Semester:** August 25–November 21, 2025
- **2025 Fall Recitals:** November 18 & 20, 2025
- **2026 Spring Semester:** January 5 - May 15
- **2026 Spring Recitals:** May 19 & 21, 2026
- **2026 Summer Semester:** May 26 - August 14, 2026. *Class day ends at 6:00 during summer semester.*

## HOLIDAYS / “BLACK OUT” DATES

There will be no Academy lessons given during the following Church holidays & closures:

- Labor Day: September 1, 2025
- Thanksgiving Week: November 24 - 28, 2025
- Christmas Break: December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026
- Martin Luther King Holiday: January 19, 2026
- Memorial Day: May 25, 2026
- Independence Day: July 3, 2026
- Other blackout days are at teacher discretion

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- When the WFISD decides to delay classes or close school due to inclement weather, the Academy will also delay / close.
- The instructor is to contact their students if lessons are cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Please use your best judgment in traveling to and from lessons in bad driving conditions.

## RECITALS

There will be a recital at the end of the fall and spring semesters, with each studio presenting. In some instances, students will need to pay an accompanist to be at their lessons and/or recital (to be worked out & coordinated through the instructor).