



# Newton Public Schools Fine Arts Department Music Lesson Extension Program

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460  
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April 30, 2015

Dear Parents,

We are writing to inform you about an increase in the Music Lesson Extension Program (MLEP) fees in the upcoming school year. Our goal is to provide an affordable private lesson program while also retaining and recruiting highly qualified instructors. Instructors in the MLEP have not received a rate increase in well over a decade and as a result, instructor compensation in Newton is falling behind many of our neighboring school districts that sponsor a private instrument music lesson program.

To bring our fees into alignment with other school districts, fees will increase in two phases. Currently, MLEP instructors earn approximately \$46 per hour. The first increase, effective July 2015, will bring the cost to \$50 per hour. The second increase, effective July 2017 will bring the cost to \$54 per hour. The \$54 hourly rate will be evaluated after the 2018-19 school year to determine if additional increases are warranted. There will be no increase to the annual \$25 Administrative Fee. The table below represents the fee increases relative to 30 or 45-minute lessons.

<b>Current Fees and Proposed Fee Increases</b>			
<b>14-Lesson Semesters</b>	<b>Current Fees</b>	<b>Starting July 1 2015</b>	<b>Starting July 1, 2017</b>
30-minute lessons	\$325.00	\$350.00	\$378.00
45-minute lessons	\$487.50	\$525.00	\$567.00

Enrolling in private instrument lessons after fourth grade is essential to advance a child's proficiency on their instrument. The MLEP, compared to local private lesson studios, remains an affordable option for many families. We hope you will continue your child's participation in the MLEP and gain the benefits that a private music lesson experience provides young musicians. Registration forms for new and returning students will be available in June.

Sincerely,

Richard P. King  
Fine Arts Coordinator, K-8

Megan Leary-Crist  
Fine Arts Department Chair  
Newton South High School

Todd Young  
Fine Arts Department Chair  
Newton North High School