

Qualities of an excellent flute student

Contrary to what you might think, great flute students do *not* have to be the best flute players in the world! Being a great flute student is more about attitude. The private lesson experience will be a more enjoyable experience for everyone if students (& teacher) are willing to put forth a little effort and positive attitude. Here's a list of habits that many great students possess. I'm sure most of you do many of these! **Please pick one or two new ones this year as a goal for your own improvement:**

- ◆ Listen to quality flutists regularly (either a live concert or recording).
- ◆ Attend flute clinics and workshops.
- ◆ Volunteer to perform often.
- ◆ Attend concerts where flutists of all ages and abilities are featured.
- ◆ Join the *Seattle Flute Society* or *NFA*.
- ◆ Subscribe to *Flutewise* or *Flute Talk*.
- ◆ Practice regularly at home (without being prodded or coerced).
- ◆ Find recordings of the solo pieces you are practicing—and listen to them. Also listen while watching the piano score – it's very helpful to hear how the parts connect and interact!
- ◆ Join a flute choir, youth symphony or other ensemble, in addition to band.
- ◆ Read books or articles about flutists and flute history.
- ◆ Find and use computer software programs to develop your music theory skills. Flash cards are also useful.
- ◆ Know what your assigned lesson material is, and come to your lessons prepared to play your best.
- ◆ Always be willing to *Just Try!*

Student Feedback

Hi!!! Guess what? I'm doing WIBC-U this year! :-D I'm very excited. My roommate is doing it too along with one other guy on our floor. We are the only UW representatives.

Just thought you'd like to know that I'm still involved in music. Marching band has been so much fun. I've met many great people and gotten to go do some amazing things. I decided not to join any other ensembles this quarter because of time, but will definitely do concert band next quarter. So there's an update of my college music experience. It's a really great thing to have in my life because it helps relieve the stress of school. At 9pm, no matter what, I stop my homework and go down to the practice room to just play, even if it's only for twenty minutes. Thank you for teaching me all the skills needed to practice productively, and for showing me how amazing music and playing the flute are.

Thank you! You're awesome! ~H.W.

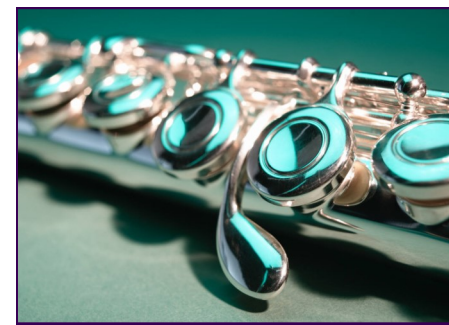
Sandra Saathoff has developed a thriving private flute studio and is a highly sought-after clinician.

Her students are consistently placed as section leaders, drum majors, principal flutists, and earn awards at competitions and festivals, including placing 1st and 2nd in the WA State Solo Contest. Many have performed concertos with local orchestras, and are often selected for honor ensembles such as All State, All NW, WIBC, and NFA.

Sandra is principal flute with the Seattle Philharmonic, and enjoys performing with local orchestral, chamber and folk ensembles and directing the flute program of the Bellevue Youth Symphony. She teaches flute, flute ensemble and woodwind techniques at Seattle Pacific University, and has served on the executive boards for the National Flute Association, Seattle Flute Society and Flutewise USA. Her teachers include Zart Dombourian-Eby, Rae Terpenning, Kim Pineda (baroque flute), & Conal O'Grada and Leo Mac Namara (Irish flute). She has taken the stage with flutists such as Sir James Galway, Trevor Wye, Ian Clarke, Matthias Ziegler, and Ian Anderson and enjoys planning a variety of large scale flute events.

She received a Master of Arts from the Univ. of WA (flute performance, instrumental conducting) & graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music Education from PLU, & is currently pursuing a DMA. She has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Seattle Philharmonic, receiving their *Esther Tye Smith Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication*. She helped found *Silver Flight*, a nonprofit to benefit student flutists.

Studio Policies and Expectations



Parent Testimonial: "Sandy, just a little note to let you know how grateful I am for all you have done for our daughter. You have been an amazing teacher, coach, cheerleader and benefactor and I am beyond thankful. I will always remember your kind guidance and support." ~P.C.

425.836.4758

s2saathoff@outlook.com

www.sandrasaathoff.com

Welcome Flutists!

Here's a little bit of information for students & families. In case you have questions or need to contact me - please feel free to email and/or call me at home. I hope flutists will find their lesson experience enjoyable and rewarding!

- ◆ Private lessons alone will not guarantee immediate improvement or success. **Daily and consistent practice of assigned lesson material** is required in order to insure noticeable progress. Suggested practice times are 20 - 45 minutes/day; 5 or more days each week. The more effort you put in - the better you become! It is more important that you practice some each day, rather than a lot only a few days each week.
- ◆ When you practice (in a well-lit area) make sure you have a **music stand** and **pencil** nearby for handy use. A **metronome**, **mirror** and **tuner** are also valuable tools. Always make sure your flute is in its best possible playing condition. A yearly C.O.A. (clean, oil and adjust) is recommended.
- ◆ We will spend time in lessons developing **tone, technique, theory skills, solo repertoire** and **sight-reading ability**. Time may also be given to ensemble repertoire, piccolo or orchestral excerpts. Please obtain all the books and music you need as soon as possible. Each student should also bring a **3 ring binder** and **pencil** to each lesson. Lessons are individually tailored to meet the needs and desires of each student.



- ◆ **Attendance/Tuition** - Monthly tuition is due at the first lesson of each month. You are paying to reserve your weekly lesson time. A late fee of \$5 will be charged for any payments made after the 3rd week of the month. There will be no deductions/refunds for any missed lessons. If a cancellation is necessary, or you need to exchange your lesson for another day or time, please let me know *as soon as possible*. I will do my best to arrange a make up lesson if notification is given at least 48 hours in advance. (but no guarantee).
- ◆ I plan several REQUIRED recitals per year—an informal flute *open house* at my home (winter); a more formal 'end of term' recital (May); and an all Baroque evening (June). **All students are expected to participate and parents are expected to attend these performances.** Students are also required to attend 2 flute studio events (Autumn/Spring). Guest artists are often arranged for my students to receive additional expertise. My goal is to create a supportive flute family. A yearly calendar is provided—*please add these dates to your personal/family calendars.*
- ◆ **Outside Activity** - I highly suggest that you participate in at least one outside activity (solo-ensemble contests, SYAMF, PAFE, SFS Horsfall Competition, or master classes; or attending a concert where a flutist is featured) You learn a lot from observing quality musicians—and you may even have fun! I will supply you with a list of dates; and you can join the *Seattle Flute Society* to keep regularly updated on all area flute events.



- ◆ **If there is a lesson in progress**, please enter quietly (phones off) and get ready to play (*flute together/music organized*) - no need to knock. Please be prompt. Do announce your arrival if you're the first lesson of the day. You are encouraged to observe the lesson before or after for extra enrichment and/or stretch on the foam roller.
- ◆ Please **record** (video/audio) your practicing often. One of my goals is to help you become your own best teacher. Developing your critical listening & observation skills in order to correct your own mistakes will allow me to teach you something 'new'.
- ◆ Students are expected to: participate in their school's music program; make every effort to attend their instructor's recitals; & to support and learn from their fellow flute students by attending their performances and supporting those in the flute studio.

Our lesson activities are the building blocks to the ultimate goal: great music played in an artistic, satisfying and compelling manner.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year and hope everyone enjoys their flute lesson experience!

Happy Fluting!

~Sandy

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Sandra Saathoff, flute instructor
Home Phone: 425.836.4758
Email: s2saathoff@outlook.com