

Welcome to the UNM String Lab School – Spring 2026!

Greetings String Lab School families,

We're looking forward to a wonderful semester filled with music and community, and we're thrilled to have you be a part of it!

Kindly take a moment to read through all the information in this document, as it contains important details about semester dates, lesson policies, parking, and more.

Semester Dates and Events

UNM Spring 2026 Semester: January 20 – May 9

- **Recitals**
 - Sat, January 31, 10:30 | Sat, March 7, 10:30 | Sat, May 2, 10:30
 - Community Music Recital Day: Sat, May 9 (times TBD)
- **Private Lessons**
 - Scheduled according to mutual availability
- **Violin & Cello Program group classes**
 - Saturdays, 9:00–9:45am or 10:00–10:45am
 - January 24 through May 2
 - No class February 14, March 21, or April 4
- **Parent/Family Seminars (open to all supporting adults)**
 - Sat, February 7, 9:00 | Sat, March 14, 9:00 | Sat, April 25, 9:00
- **UNM Art Education Events**
 - March 7 & April 11 – drop-in artistic activities for kids in the Lobby

Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns any time. Cheers to a harmonious semester ahead!

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Protection of Minors on Campus

In accordance with UNM Minors on Campus policies, a parent, guardian, or authorized caregiver must accompany all minor children into and out of university facilities and remain on site for the full duration of each lesson and class. At the UNM String Lab School, we also ask that a supportive and engaged adult attend lessons with their child and take an active role in guiding at-home practice.

Parking (also see map on p. 4)

Parking availability on campus can fluctuate from week to week due to various campus events, Popejoy performances, and construction. We encourage you to plan and allow extra time to locate parking before lessons and classes. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Parking options:

- **Saturday Cornell Parking Structure Permits:** Available for \$15 and valid for 12 uses (up to 3 hours each) on **Saturday mornings (9:00–12:00 PM)**.
 - *One permit code is included in the cost of the Violin & Cello Program (one per family) for group lessons that meet on Saturdays.*
- **Weekend Free Parking:** Parking is free on the weekends in any unmetered, non-reserved space including A/E lot. (The old A lot is now under construction for the new CCAT building.)
- **Paid Parking (without a permit):**
 - **Cornell Parking Structure:** \$1.75 per 30 minutes, 7 days a week
 - **City Meters:** Located nearby on Central, Cornell, and Harvard – \$1 per hour.
 - **Premium Parking Lots:** Nearby lots offer a pay-by-phone option. Rates vary.

Instruments

Finding an instrument: Beware of cheaply made “violin-shaped objects” sold online, and do not purchase or rent an instrument without our guidance! Proper sizing and setup are essential for success. Your teacher will help you determine a correctly sized instrument. Remember: too small is better than too large.

Borrowing a String Lab School instrument: A limited number of full-size violins are available to adults who wish to learn alongside children enrolled in group classes for \$50 per academic year.

Expectations for String Lab School Lessons and Classes

Location: All lessons will be given on the UNM campus – no exceptions.

Attendance: Please be punctual. Instructors are not expected to provide extra time when students are late. Private lessons cancelled without 24-hour notice may be forfeited. Make up lessons will only be given if the miss was unavoidable—illness or emergency—and are scheduled within the current semester.

Inclement weather or campus closures: Cancellations due to weather or other emergencies are extremely rare. If we determine that it is unsafe for families and teachers to travel due to weather conditions—or if UNM cancels classes or closes campus—we will cancel our classes. We will notify families immediately via email using the contact information provided at registration. Please note that there will be no makeup classes or refunds if a group class or other event must be cancelled.

Private Lessons

- Children: Because we are working with children in a focused setting, private lessons lengths are structured with flexibility in mind, and defined as follows:
 - Beginning lesson: any length, up to 30 minutes
 - Intermediate lesson: any length, up to 45 minutes
 - Advanced lesson: any length, up to 60 minutes
- Adults: Adult students can expect to use the full scheduled time.
- Before a child's lessons:
 - Review the week's assignments and the weekly preparations so your child feels confident going into the lesson.
 - See that your child has had a brief rest and a snack.
 - Make sure your child has gone to the bathroom, trimmed nails, and washed hands.

Family involvement

- Consistent evidence and extensive experience have shown that the amount learned and the speed with which it is learned is directly associated with the degree to which family members are involved in a child's study. Consistent, daily musical activities and music listening reinforce learning and help to establish practice as a daily habit.
- Whether it is a parent, guardian, grandparent, or caregiver, it is required that a supportive and engaged adult attend all lessons and classes with children and assist them during at-home practice sessions.
- Studying the instrument alongside a young student is also encouraged for those who are interested and can be very motivating. The String Lab School owns a limited number of instruments available for adult rental.
- When siblings or other children need to come along, please make every effort to help them remain unobtrusive to the learning environment by bringing along a quiet activity from home. (PS: We also understand and respect that kids will be kids!)

Working with UNM Student Interns

1. UNM Student Interns are college students receiving teacher training in String Pedagogy. Instruction is supervised by Dr. Aaron Jacobs, Assistant Professor of String Pedagogy, through lesson notes, video review, and course discussions. Lessons may be recorded for training purposes and will only be shared with String Pedagogy faculty and fellow students enrolled in String Pedagogy classes.
2. If you must discuss something with your UNM Student Intern, please do not wait until the end of the private lesson to bring it up, or the lesson following yours will be delayed.
3. Criticism of your child or the intern is not appropriate during lessons; please arrange a time to call or email your intern to discuss problems at a separate time. In case of real difficulties, please contact Aaron Jacobs (aaronjacobs@unm.edu) or Laurie Lopez (ljlopez@unm.edu).

Expectations for UNM Student Interns

- Interns will be prompt for all scheduled lessons. Their instrument will be tuned, notes and materials will be ready and available, and video equipment (when applicable) will be set up, cued, and ready to go before the lesson begins.

- Interns must give 24-hour's notice of changing or cancellation of any private lessons given in the UNM String Lab School. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis, but with cell phones and email, interns and students should rarely, if ever, not show up to a scheduled lesson.
- Interns who miss more than one private lesson, are late to more than one lesson without a valid excuse, or are unprepared to teach your child, should be reported to Aaron Jacobs (aaronjacobs@unm.edu).

Follow the UNM String Lab School on social media!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unmlabschool>

Instagram: [@unmstringlabschool](https://www.instagram.com/unmstringlabschool)

Website: stringlab.unm.edu

Location and Parking Map

