



2026-2027 Hochstein Student Handbook

Academic Calendar

FIRST QUARTER

SECOND QUARTER

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MON	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 25
TUES	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
WED	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27
THUR	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28
FRI	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
SAT	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23

THIRD QUARTER

FOURTH QUARTER

WEEK	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
MON	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	June 7	June 14
TUES	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 30	Apr. 6	Apr. 13	Apr. 20	Apr. 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15
WED	Feb. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 24	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Mar. 31	Apr. 7	Apr. 14	Apr. 21	Apr. 28	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	June 2	June 9	June 16
THUR	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 25	Mar. 4	Mar. 11	Mar. 18	Apr. 1	Apr. 8	Apr. 15	Apr. 22	Apr. 29	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17
FRI	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Apr. 2	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Apr. 30	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4	June 11	June 18
SAT	Jan. 30	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29	June 5	June 12

First day of classes

Payment due for second quarter

Thanksgiving Recess*

Holiday Recess*

MLK Day*

Payment due for third quarter

Winter Recess*

Spring Recess*

Payment due for fourth quarter

Memorial Day*

Last day of classes

September 9, 2026

November 11, 2026

November 24-28, 2026

Dec. 23, 2026 through Jan. 1, 2027

January 18, 2027

February 3, 2027

Feb. 15-20, 2027

March 23-27, 2027

April 21, 2027

May 31, 2027

June 18, 2027

* = No classes or lessons

Makeup lessons available on: Nov. 24, Feb. 16 and 17, March 23, June 21 & 22.

Withdrawal Policy

If a student wishes to stop any activity at Hochstein, they must notify the Front Office in-person, over the phone at (585) 454-4596 or by email to frontoffice@hochstein.org.

If they do not notify the main office, tuition charges will continue to accrue as follows:

<u>INDIVIDUAL LESSON CANCELLATION DEADLINES</u>	Charge(s)
Two working days* before the first lesson of a quarter	No charge
Two working days* before the second lesson of a quarter	1 lesson
Two working days* before the third lesson of a quarter	2 lessons
On the date of the third lesson of a quarter	3 lessons
After the third lesson of a quarter	Entire quarter tuition
<u>CLASS, ENSEMBLE, AND WORKSHOP CANCELLATION DEADLINES</u>	Charge(s)
Two working days* before the first class, rehearsal, or workshop	No charge
Less than two working days* before the first class, rehearsal, or workshop	3 classes
After the third class date of the quarter	Entire quarter tuition

*Working days during the school year are Monday through Saturday

If a student needs to withdraw for a verified medical reason, they will only be charged for lessons through the point of withdrawal. Verification must be obtained through a doctor's note.

Attendance and Absence Policy

Regular attendance at weekly lessons, sessions, and classes is important to student growth, learning, and development. If a student is consistently absent, Hochstein reserves the right to drop the student for non-attendance (see the Student Code of Conduct for more information).

INDIVIDUAL LESSON ABSENCE POLICY

- Instructor Absence
 - If an instructor cancels a lesson for any reason, a makeup lesson will be scheduled if possible. If a make-up lesson is not offered, a credit will be applied to the student's account.
- Student Absence
 - If a parent or student cancels a lesson, no credit will be given. The instructor may choose to make-up the missed lesson, but is not required to do so.*
 - Special Lesson Cancellation (SLC) - A student may receive credit for a cancelled lesson if it falls under one of these special circumstances. These cancellations require at least two working days notice and there is a maximum of 2 SLC absences per year. If a make-up lesson is offered, Hochstein will rebill for the activity.
 - Observation of a religious holiday
 - School music activity
 - College entrance exam (i.e. audition, SAT)

**Exceptions apply to OPWDD Self-Directed students; email jennifer.phillips@hochstein.org for more information.*

SCHOOL CLOSURES

If Hochstein is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency, students will be notified by email and information will be provided on Hochstein's website (hochstein.org) and social media. Instructors will schedule make-up lessons for individual lessons and credit will be issued if they are unable to arrange a make-up lesson. No credits or make-up classes will be offered for classes and ensembles. Instructors may choose to hold a lesson or class virtually.

Payment Policy

AUTO-PAYMENT

Auto-pay is Hochstein's default payment method. Tuition payments are charged automatically to the card on file in the student's ActiveNet portal according to the payment schedule agreed upon at registration. Other payment intervals and methods may be arranged with the Dean Staff.

Payment notifications are sent to the email address associated with the student's ActiveNet account when a payment has been processed. You may check your billing payment schedule at any time under the "Payment Plan" section of your registration confirmation or online in your payment portal. Hochstein does not send paper billing statements unless specifically requested to do so.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OPTIONS

If you require an exception to this policy, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Dean Staff to set up an alternative arrangement for tuition payment.

LATE PAYMENT

Tuition payments that are past-due may result in additional fees and/or the student being unable to re-enroll at Hochstein in the future.

SELF-DIRECTION

Self-directed students under OPWDD are not eligible for auto-pay or tuition assistance. Please refer to your registration confirmation email for details.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

As part of Hochstein's mission to make our activities available to students of all ages and abilities regardless of financial circumstances, our Tuition Assistance Program is available through an application process. Although we cannot guarantee that all applications will be granted, we encourage anyone in need to apply. Contact the Front Office at (585) 454-4596 or FrontOffice@hochstein.org for more information.

Photography and Recording Policy

Non-commercial

By entering an event or program of The Hochstein School, you are entering an area where photography, audio and video recording may occur.

Your entry and presence on the premises constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any non-commercial purpose in perpetuity in connection with The Hochstein School and its initiatives including, by way of example only, use on websites, social media, and news broadcasts.

By entering the premises, you waive and release any claims you may have related to the use of recorded media of you, including, without limitation, any right to inspect or approve the photo, video or audio recording of you, any claims for invasion of privacy, violation of the right of publicity, defamation, and copyright infringement or for any fees for use of such media.

To opt-out of this non-commercial policy, please contact a member of The Hochstein School Dean Staff to be placed on a do-not-photograph list. This opt-out only applies to photography, audio and video recordings in individual lessons, classes, and ensemble rehearsals and not during Hochstein's public events.

To opt-out of event photography, do not enter the event premises.

¹ Non-commercial use includes media recorded for the purposes of internal communication, event documentation, memory-keeping, record-keeping, and educational purposes.

Photography and Recording Policy

Commercial

Employees of the Hochstein School may, periodically, visit lessons, classes, and ensemble rehearsals to take photographs, audio and/or video recordings for commercial purposes such as advertisements. When working with any student population, The Hochstein School will employ the following policies and procedures:

1. A member of the Hochstein Marketing Department will contact the faculty member leading the lesson, class, or rehearsal with at least one week's notice to notify them of their intention to produce commercial content. The faculty member may notify the department chair and/or Dean Staff, but that is up to the discretion of the faculty member and not required. A member of the Marketing Department will provide the faculty member with printed photography waivers to distribute to parents and guardians the week before the intended recording date.
2. On the day of the photography or recording session, a Marketing Team member will be present to collect printed photography waivers. Any student under the age of 18 without a signed waiver from a parent or guardian or any student over the age of 18 who declines to sign the waiver, will receive a wristband that must be worn throughout the class. Parents or guardians may stay and observe with permission.
3. The photographer or videographer will be undistruptive during the lesson, class, or rehearsal and will not devalue the student experience.
4. The photographer or videographer may take photos or recordings of students with wristbands during the session due to space constraints and to remain nondisruptive, but the media will be deleted upon upload and any student with a wristband will not appear in any commercial media.
5. By signing the waiver, the student or parent/guardian waives any right to inspect or approve the published photo, video or audio recording, any claims for invasion of privacy, violation of the right of publicity, defamation, and copyright infringement or for any fees for use of such media.
6. Waivers are applicable for one event instance only. If another photography or videography session is scheduled for the same class, waivers must be re-submitted.

Student Code of Conduct

The Hochstein School's mission is to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement. Hochstein upholds the values of Excellence, Diversity & Accessibility, Collaboration, Accountability, Teamwork, A Nurturing Community, and Comprehensiveness (See hochstein.org/about for more details). To continue our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming community, The Hochstein School prohibits the following:

1. Bullying, derogatory language, hate speech, exclusion, harassment, hostile or threatening behavior, or physical violence towards fellow students, faculty members, coaches, volunteers, and staff. This includes wearing attire with language, logos, or symbolism that can be considered hostile or threatening.
2. No weapons are allowed on school property. Do not bring weapons (even pretend ones), including explosives, firearms, knives, or other noxious gases or substances.
3. Smoking, including e-cigarettes and vaping, on School property.
4. Alcohol (unless a liquor license has been issued to the school for an event) and illicit drugs.
5. Purposeful damage of School property including instruments, equipment, and fixtures.

Additional Hochstein policies:

- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied into the building by a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian must remain in the building while the child is on site unless otherwise authorized by the School or as provided under a specific Hochstein program.
- For the safety of the Hochstein community, bags, backpacks, instrument cases, and other personal belongings may be subject to inspection when the School has a reasonable safety or security concern, consistent with applicable law and School procedures. The Hochstein School reserves the right to prohibit items that present a safety risk or substantially interfere with School programs or operations.

By entering The Hochstein School or enrolling in its programs, the student agrees to uphold the Student Code of Conduct. A student's enrollment may be cancelled without refund if they are found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

If at any time, a student, parent, or faculty member would like to report an incident regarding the Student Code of Conduct or has a grievance against a faculty member, contact the Dean of Students (Joanna Bassett) at (585) 454-4596 x229 or email hms.deans@hochstein.org. In case of emergency, call 911. If a student would like to appeal an enrollment decision, contact the President and Executive Director. The safety and welfare of our students is of the utmost importance to The Hochstein School. Retaliation against an individual for making a good faith report or participating in the review of a reported concern is prohibited.