

ASTA/NJ Cadet Teacher Training Course



➤ *For more information about CTTC, please contact Leslie Webster at donleswebster@optonline.net or 973-966-1101*

About the Cadet Teacher Training Course (CTTC)

The Cadet Teacher Training Course is a ten-hour course designed to cover the basic knowledge needed to start or remediate early level string students. While designed with pre-college students in mind, it is appropriate for older players, too, who would like to teach.

The Cadet Teacher Training Course, designed for string students in grades 8 and higher, follows a prescribed curriculum, designed to give pre-college students the fundamental skills and knowledge needed in order to teach early level string students the specific instrument(s) studied by the cadet. The course is a minimum of 10 hours in length, ordinarily taught in 5 sessions of 2 hours each by experienced teachers of strings. Upon successful completion of the program, participants receive an ASTA/NJ Cadet Teacher Training Course certificate.

Course curriculum

The curriculum, while planned in detail by each course instructor, must include a dozen features that are selected to lead to well-trained teachers of young students. The actual methods used by the course instructors may include lecture, hands-on experiences, handouts, homework, research papers, and visual presentations.

The curriculum, which can be adapted for any of the ASTA string instruments, must include the following:

1. A minimum of 5 critiqued practice teaching opportunities.
2. Selection and care of instruments and basic equipment.
3. Student set-up and posture.
4. Beginning lessons.
5. Detailed study of at least one beginner method.
6. Overview of supplemental literature
7. How to build basic skills in the right hand.
8. How to build basic skills in the left hand.
9. How to set up a studio.
10. String teacher resources.

11. A thumbnail history of the specific instrument pedagogy.
12. How to solve common teaching problems.

The methods used by the course instructors may include lecture, hands-on experiences, handouts, homework, research papers, and video presentations.

Sample curriculum for violin, viola, and cello can be obtained from the ASTA/NJ CTTC State Chair, Leslie Webster.

Requirements for student registration

Students registering for this course must be in grade 8 or above, be privately studying the instrument(s) they propose to teach, and must be able to attend the entire course. If any sessions are missed, they can be made up at the discretion of the instructor. Certificates will not be given to students who do not complete the entire course.

Any string teacher may become a CTTC instructor. Submit to the state CTTC chair the following: a photocopy of your current ASTA membership card; your address and contact information; your course outline; your course dates. Set your own course fee, keeping in mind that you will be teaching 20 hours and will need to budget an extra \$5.00 per enrolled student, payable to ASTA/NJ. When registrations are in, send \$5.00 per student to the state chair to cover state chapter publicity costs. Certificates will be sent to you upon receipt of the \$5.00 fees.

Coordination with public schools

Public schools, in addition to conducting training of their own, employ a variety of ways to utilize CTTC graduates.

The School District of the Chathams issues a formal listing of Cadet teachers to the parents of string students. Parents make arrangements for lessons. Other district string teachers hand pick students and match them with Cadet teachers. The Tenafly Public School District is developing other ways to utilize these young teachers, including having their Cadets assist with elementary school string lessons. Please send us your ideas to share on this page!

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