

WeBop FAQs

What is WeBop?

Q: What do you do in WeBop?

A: Each class is led by a WeBop teacher and features a piano accompanist, incorporating both live and recorded music with educational activities and storytelling. The class encourages families to learn about jazz and express themselves through movement, singing, clapping and playing small percussion instruments. In addition to these activities, professional jazz musicians also visit WeBop at least twice a term to introduce the children to live music and instruments, reinforcing the repertoire and concepts learned in class.

Q: Is each semester different?

A: Each WeBop term features a different theme. The Fall Term, “The ABCs of Jazz”, covers fundamental concepts such as swing, tempo, dynamics, scat, solo, call and response, and riff. The Winter Term, “Making Jazz Friends”, focuses on legendary jazz musicians and composers such as Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Dizzy Gillespie. The Spring Term, “Meet the Jazz Band”, explores the instruments in a jazz combo including piano, bass, drums, saxophone, and trumpet.

Q: Do you have to take all three terms?

A: Taken together, all three terms provide a cumulative experience and allows children to develop a deeper engagement with jazz over time and through a variety of different activities. However, each individual term is designed to “stand alone” as an educational experience, and the term is cumulative within the eight week session.

Q: Do the children play musical instruments?

A: The WeBop classroom has a wide variety of musical instruments for the children to explore and play in class, including: glockenspiels, maracas, bongos, congas, tambourines and other percussion instruments. The children are exposed to piano with our accompanist each week, and they also experience other musical instruments when our guest musicians visit class. Instruments represented in previous classes include: acoustic bass, drums, guitar, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, flute and voice.

Q: Is WeBop a drop-off class?

A: No. WeBop focuses on the parent-child dyad and the relationship that they build while experiencing jazz together.

Who is WeBop?

Q: Who teaches WeBop?

A: Our WeBop teachers are graduates or current students at Columbia Teachers College specializing in early childhood music education. They have all completed at least an undergraduate degree in musical and/or jazz performance, and have either earned or are currently pursuing their Master’s Degree or PhD at Teachers College.

Q: How many students are in each class?

A: There are 10 parent-child dyads in Stompers, Syncopators and Gumbo Group and 8 parent-child dyads in the Hipsters and Scatters classes.

Q: Can my child join a certain age group if he/she is turning the minimum age after the first few lessons?

A: The WeBop curriculum is specifically designed for the developmental strengths of each age groups, so children must be of age *before* the start of each specific class. The minimum ages are: 8 months old for Hipsters, 17 months old for Scatters, 2 years old for Stompers, 3 years old for Gumbo Group and 4 years old for Syncopators. An exception can be made if the child is turning the minimum age within the first two weeks of class.

Q: Can my child join a certain age group if he/she is not of age, but exceptionally talented and/or has taken other music classes before?

A: (see previous answer above) We recognize that many of our students are exceptionally talented and have had strong exposure to music at an early age. Many have participated in WeBop or other music classes before, and it is this mix of experiences that contributes to the richness of WeBop class, where group interaction is encouraged.

Q: If my child has a disability can he/she join?

A: Our goal is to be as inclusive as possible. Please contact our staff to determine if this setting is the right one for you and your child.

Q: May I bring another child to class? (ie. A sibling who is not in the same age group as the other child)

A: If you have a second child, please plan to have a second adult accompany him/her in our waiting area just outside the WeBop classroom. The WeBop curriculum places a very strong emphasis on the parent-child experience, and having only students in the classroom allows each child to get the proper attention in class.

Q: How many parents may attend class?

A: Only one (1) adult is allowed in class at a time to respect the parent-child dyad focus, to be fair to all students and to respect our classroom capacity. Two (2) parents or guardians are allowed on the first day of class each term. Please let us know in advance if you would like to bring other guests to class (adults only). They may observe along the side, provided there is room, or wait just outside our classroom and “switch” with the other parent or guardian during class.

Policies and Rules

Q: Are there trial classes?

A: In addition to dedicated trial classes prior to the start of the term, we allow pre-scheduled visits upon requests for parents and caregivers to see what the class is like. We allow adults only due to our space limitations and in order to respect the ten-dyad class capacity. Please call 212-258-9835 to schedule a visit.

Q: Are there makeup classes?

A: Families are permitted a maximum of two (2) makeup classes per term. All makeups are subject to availability, are scheduled on a first come first served basis, and may not be rescheduled if missed. Families are allowed to attend another class appropriate for their child’s age group that is within the existing schedule. To schedule a makeup class please email webop@jalc.org or call 212-258-9922.

Q: Are there refunds?

A: Tuition fee is fully refundable up to the first date of each term. A 50% refund is available for registrations cancelled within the first two weeks of class. **No refunds will be issued after the first two weeks of class.**

Q: If my class is cancelled (due to unforeseen conditions like snow or teacher illness), will an extra class be added to the schedule? Will there be substitute teachers?

A: In the unlikely event of class cancellation, you will be contacted and a makeup day may be scheduled subject to room and teacher availability. On occasion, a substitute teacher may cover a class.