

Sanders Piano Studio



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STUDIO POLICY

For a detailed schedule of this year's lessons, recitals, group lessons, and OMTA syllabus, please refer to the attached calendar page. The studio is closed during Thanksgiving week, winter break and spring break and no lessons will be taught. Summer lessons will be offered on a weekly basis. **Please refer to the calendar for specific dates.**

Tuition and Payment

Students are required to sign up for one full term. Payment for lessons is due at the beginning of each term. Arrangements for tuition payments to be broken into two installments may be made.

For detailed information about tuition and payment schedule please contact me.

Attendance, Illness and Make-ups

Because regular attendance is essential to musical growth, **a commitment to lessons for the duration of the term is expected when a student enrolls.** There can be no tuition deduction or reimbursement for missed lessons. Should a student decide mid-term to discontinue lessons – there will be no tuition reimbursement. Students should arrive no more than 5 minutes early and leave promptly at the conclusion of the lesson. I cannot be responsible for a student once the lesson is over.

Make-up lesson policy:

There are no make-up lessons. If a student has to miss a lesson due to illness or other unforeseen event **I will make a video lesson** and send it to you in lieu of the regular lesson. **It is very important that students watch these videos** when they have missed a lesson and continue practicing through the week and complete their assignment to stay on track.

Because schedules are complicated and sports events are sometimes unpredictable, I will issue a copy of my schedule as a **swap list**. In the case of an *anticipated absence*, students may arrange to exchange lesson times with another student. Please notify me promptly if a lesson is exchanged or must be cancelled.

In the event that I must cancel a scheduled lesson, I will provide a make-up or a refund.

If lessons must be cancelled due to inclement weather, I will provide skype or facetime lessons. I have found that these lessons are very valuable as they provide me with a window into the student's practice environment and also add variety to the lesson experience for students which can heighten their engagement with music. Students are required to write down their own assignments during these lessons.

Practice

Parents are responsible for making sure that students practice the material they have been assigned a minimum of 5 days a week. Depending on the age of the student, parents will need to sit down with the student each day to ensure that students practice each assignment as laid out on the assignment sheet. This will continue for a few years for younger students. It is essential that parents understand the level of commitment they need to make to ensure each student's success. **Progress at the piano depends on daily practice, which should assume the same priority as homework.** Practice is most effective when the student is alert and undisturbed. Most students find that setting a regular practice time helps them to be consistent. Some students may choose two short practice sessions rather than one long one. The piano should be in tune and away from family distractions. *Fingernails must be short* in order to use the hands comfortably and correctly at the keyboard. **Together with their parents, students will find a regular time to practice during the day. If it seems difficult in the beginning, just wait! It gets easier! Students will begin to see the results of their steady, daily practice. Parents too will fall into a routine of helping the child complete their assignment.**

Purchasing books

Any books purchased by the teacher for the student will be billed in addition to tuition.

Recitals and Group Lessons

Group lessons are held twice per term. Attendance is required. During group lesson week there will be no private lessons. Some group lessons will be offered on weekends, during those weeks there will be regular private lessons as well.

Two recitals will be held this year. All students will prepare a piece to perform on the recitals.

Students should dress up for the recital. Please no old jeans or dirty sneakers. Please no face paint. Taking care in how you present yourself at the recital is part of preparing for your performance and showing respect for your audience!

OMTA Syllabus & OMTA Festivals

These events are optional. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Materials

All students are required to have:

- 1.** an adequate instrument to practice on
- 2.** a metronome
- 3.** a three ring binder with at least 5 tabs for practice records and assignments.

Please be sure to bring books and binders to each lesson!

*** Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns about lessons. I am looking forward to working with you all to create a rewarding musical year!