

Piano Lessons with Mrs. Samaniego Studio Policy

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Playing the piano is a fun and enjoyable experience that can be experienced for a lifetime. My goal is to teach students to play the piano well and enjoy it!

I do this through several means:

- Providing a diverse repertoire of music from the classics to moderns. Students will learn music from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries as well as 20th and 21st centuries. Classical, spiritual, folk songs, jazz, sacred music, ragtime, and pop songs are among some of the genres that will be learned.
- Teaching students to play with good technique to play with a beautiful tone. Teaching students to listen to how they are playing.
- Teaching students to read music.
- Teaching students the theory behind the music.
- Improving finger strength and dexterity through exercises and scales.
- Giving different helpful practice strategies to help students learn pieces throughout the week.
- Providing opportunities (recitals and group classes) in which to perform.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Encouragement from parents is essential to your child's success in piano lessons. Here is how you can help:

- To please provide an acoustic piano that is tuned once per year and a bench of the correct height.
- Pay lesson and materials fees on time.
- To ensure the success of each piano lesson, please:
 1. Check that your child has completed each week's assignment and filled in the Practice Log in the assignment book.
 2. Make sure your child arrives on time and with the necessary materials.
 3. Keep your child's fingernails cut short and hands clean.
- Attend recitals.
- Maintain communication with the teacher about any questions via email, text or phone call.
- Provide a constructive and loving environment for learning at home.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Learning to play an instrument well is like a long, steady hike, not a sprint. With consistency in practice over time you will be able to look back and discover that you have made much progress! Please keep the following in mind when you coming to lessons or practicing at home:

- Come to lessons prepared with books in a carrying bag, ready to learn with a good attitude.
- Practice 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. 6-year-old students and younger may practice 20 minutes. Practice time may be broken into two parts per day, especially with younger students.
- Please look at your practice notebooks at home for instruction and fill out your practice log.
- Participate in recitals and group classes with a willing attitude.
- Treat others as you would like to have yourself be treated.

LESSON FEES, BOOKS, AND LEARNING MATERIALS

- Monthly fees are based on the length of the private lesson and include the lesson time, teacher preparation, group classes, and recitals.
- Lesson fees are paid *monthly by the 1st day* of the month.
 - 30-minute lessons are \$40 per lesson, and 45-minute lessons are \$60 per lesson.
 - One month of 30-minute lessons is **\$160**.
 - One month of 45-minute lessons is **\$240**.
 - Payment is accepted via check (made to “Jessica Samaniego”), Zelle, or Apple Pay.
- Books fees will be sent home with the student in the student’s notebooks and must be paid for by the following week. A set of books for a beginning student may cost from \$35 to \$45 and usually lasts the whole year (depending on how quickly the student advances). Additional supplemental books will be added throughout the year for special recital pieces, etc.
- The student is responsible for purchasing his or her own metronome (not a metronome on a phone) and note flash cards to use at home.

MAKE-UP LESSONS AND HOLIDAYS

- Lessons missed due to illness will be rescheduled within the same month. If the teacher misses a lesson, it will be made up within the same month (or as soon as possible within the following month if the lesson that was missed is at the end of the month).
- The teacher will try to reschedule lessons due to a reason besides illness, holidays, or family emergencies, but no guarantees are promised. *If the lesson cannot be rescheduled, it must be paid for.*
- If a lesson needs to be cancelled or rescheduled, please notify the teacher 24 hours in advance. If the student becomes ill the morning of the lesson, the teacher will be understanding of shorter notice.
- The teacher will not teach during Christmas Break and Spring Break. She will communicate the exact dates at the beginning of each semester.

- Students are highly encouraged to continue lessons in the summer (at least 2 lessons each month). The teacher is understanding of family vacations and will accommodate in accordance with the summer attendance policy. Furthermore, summer lessons are valuable as they allow time to cover concepts and pieces that are not learned during the normal school year. The teacher will also take off two weeks in the summer, notifying parents at the beginning of summer when these two weeks will be.

PROGRAMS

- Recitals give a unique opportunity to share music with others. They give students goals to work toward and a sense of accomplishment.
- Students are required to perform in at least one recital per year and highly encouraged to attend 1 group class per year. Group classes may give students a chance to play pieces learned for peers.
- A student may perform in an additional program that includes an adjudication process (like Certificate of Merit) at the discretion of the teacher, parent, and student.

I have read and understand the above policy and will adhere to it to the best of my ability to ensure that my child has a positive and successful experience in piano lessons.

Name of Student

Parent Signature

Date

I have read and understand the above policy and will adhere to it to the best of my ability to ensure that I will have a positive and successful experience in piano lessons.

Student Signature

Date