

Grace Notes Music Studio

Piano Studio Policy

2022-2023

About the Teacher:

I grew up with music as my mother was a Suzuki Piano teacher for 35 years and a church organist for almost 40 years. At age five I began piano, then began studying violin at age ten with the Suzuki method. I have studied piano for over ten years and apprenticed with my mother for four years as she taught my children piano. All three have given a Suzuki Book I recital.

Music is given by God and is an amazing expression of the soul. The study of music fosters self-confidence, discipline, perseverance, and creativity. My chief joy in music is to worship Christ and give God glory as I help others praise Him.

Tuition for September through May:

Rates are tuition based and are due the first lesson of each month. **The same rate will apply each month regardless of the number of weeks in the month.** Tuition covers not only lesson time spent with the student, but also planning time, continuing education for the teacher, and preparation for recitals and competitions. If tuition is not received by the 10th of the month, a \$10 late fee will apply.

30 minute lesson = \$70 a month (Book Ia)

45 minute lesson = \$105 a month (Book Ib and beyond)

Tuition for June through August:

Students must take 6 lessons to hold their place in the studio for fall lessons. Tuition for all six lessons is due at the beginning of June. Students may take more than six lessons as desired.

Annual Fee

An annual fee of \$25 will be charged to help pay for copies, prizes, equipment, etc. The annual fee is due each August in order to enroll for September.

Parent Education

Since a parent must practice with students through at least fifth grade, I require the parent attending lessons to learn the Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star variations on the piano. A parent can usually learn these variations within a month if she can devote fifteen minutes of practice to it each day. The student will observe during this time.

Lesson Procedure: For students through fifth grade, a parent must attend the lesson. Please bring technology in order to record short practice videos at the lesson. I will provide a practice notebook for note taking and home practice. Parental involvement is essential as the parent will be the home teacher. It is also very valuable to observe other student's lessons if possible. If you are observing after your

lesson, please arrive at least 5 minutes early to the lesson and get all materials ready so that we may start promptly. Please enter and exit quietly so that the ongoing lesson will not be disturbed.

Note: If siblings must attend lessons, they should not be a distraction. I will have some toys and a small table where they may play quietly.

Attendance Policy & Make-Up Lessons: Monthly rates are tuition based, which means that all lessons for the month are paid for in advance and no refunds will be offered. If I must miss the lesson, I will give you a credit on the next month's tuition. Tuition will remain the same each month during the school year. I will not teach the week of Thanksgiving, two weeks at Christmas break, and one week in March for Spring Break, plus one week to be announced.

No make-up lessons are provided. If you need a different time, I will try to accommodate requests as I am able if you give me one week's notice.

Pianos: A spinnet or upright piano is required at home. Keyboards are difficult to play and do not allow articulation or good tone to be developed. It is possible to find good quality pianos for free or for very little cost. Ask me about this if you are interested.

Senseney Music

2300 E. Lincoln St, Wichita, KS 67211

316.262.1487

Garten's Music

4235 W. Central

316.942.1337

Piano's Unlimited

pianosunlimited.com 1.800.201.4551 900 N. Main Street Hutchinson, KS 67501

This business sells new and slightly used pianos and has very competitive prices.

Piano Movers

AAA Piano Moving

259-4621

Michael J's, Inc.

945-6453

Mighty Movers

210-8863

Piano Tuners

Pianos need to be tuned about once a year. I know both of these men personally and have attended church with both of them at various times.

Phil Atkinson

316-729-9074

Alan Crane

316-680-7435

Beginner Suzuki Package (required for new students)

Suzuki Piano Book I and CD

Rhythm Train Book I

Practice Notebook

Foot stool (if needed)

Group Lessons and Recitals

Group Lessons will be offered from September through May on the first or second Friday afternoon of the month, dates are listed below. Please put these dates on your calendar now! **Students must attend 7 of the 9 lessons in order to remain in the studio.** Tuition for group lessons may be added to the fee for lessons or paid at the group lesson. All lessons will be 45 minutes long and cost \$8 per student. Group lessons entail playing pieces as duets in order to start learning ensemble skills and learning music theory through games and activities. Students may also be asked to play solos for one another.

Group Lesson Dates for 2022-23

September 9

October 7

November 4

December 2

January 13

February 10

March 3

April 14

May 12

Formal recitals will be held twice a year in the fall and spring. Other performance opportunities include playing at area nursing homes or public venues.

Practice

Under normal circumstances, students will be expected to practice five days a week not including the lesson. Repetition is necessary for retention. The quality of the practice is more important to me than the quantity. 15 to 30 minutes a day is a good average amount of practice time, but should be adjusted according to the goals, seriousness, age, or attention span of each student. More advanced students should be practicing 45 minutes to an hour each day.

Suzuki Method

For a good description of the Suzuki Method, see this article:

<http://www.violinist.com/blog/laurie/20122/13212/>