

Janice Smith Piano Studio

Student Teacher Studio Policy 2011 - 2012 School Year

Lessons

Students will receive 45 minutes of individualized instruction on a weekly basis. The term begins in September and ends in June, with no lessons during Labor Day, Winter Break, or Spring Break. Other holidays will be scheduled according to the discretion of the student and the Student Teacher.

Please provide a well-maintained, properly tuned acoustic piano, in an adequately lit location that allows for uninterrupted lessons and practice. Metronomes are also required.

Tuition & Fees

- Tuition will be \$16 per lesson – payable to the student teacher. If the Student Teacher comes to the student's home – Tuition will be \$18 per lesson.
- **Tuition is to be paid in advance at the first lesson of each month.** Depending on the number of weeks in each month, tuition may vary slightly each month.
- Music is extra and you will receive a billing notice the week before tuition payment is due, detailing the tuition and music charges when applicable.
- Tuition Policy is set by me, not the Student Teacher and any changes or disputes will be handled through my studio – not the Student Teacher.

Lesson Time Changes or Cancellations

Parents and Student Teachers will be required to give a minimum of **48 hours notice for any change** in the weekly scheduled lesson time. Piano lessons are a commitment by the parents, the student, and the teacher, and are to be taken seriously. Frequent cancellations or changes by either the parents or student teacher will be reviewed by Janice Smith, and, if necessary, a meeting will be held to work out any scheduling issues. Student Teachers are being asked to make a 1-year commitment to regular, weekly lessons, and the parents and student are also asked to make this same commitment.

Practice

Sufficient **scheduled** practice time on a **daily basis** is the surest guarantee that students will experience consistent progress at the piano. Learning the necessary skills to become proficient at the keyboard will not occur by simply taking piano lessons. It takes committed practice on a daily basis during the week to put skills covered at the lesson into motion. If a student is unprepared, then lesson time must be used to practice and review rather than to teach new concepts, skills and repertoire pieces.

Please expect:

1 st year	5- 6 days per week	20 – 25 minutes daily
2 nd – 3 rd year	5- 6 days per week	30 – 40 minutes daily

All students are required provide a notebook in which their assignment will be written. In addition to the above time expectations, each student will be required to practice according to the instructions written in the notebook.

It is the position of my piano studio that extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama, dance, gymnastic, etc. **are not** considered valid excuses for not practicing during the week. Please respect my curriculum and my commitment to your child's musical education by maintaining a priority level for piano studies. With commitment to learning the art of music comes the decision to practice on a regular basis. Consistent progress results in pride, satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment!

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Group Lessons

Group lessons will be given several times during the year. Students will be provided the opportunity to play for other students, participate in musical games and activities and establish friendships with other piano students. Groups provide an invaluable learning experience and attendance is required. **Group lessons will replace private lessons for the week in which they are given.** Group Lessons will be held at the studio of Janice Smith.

Recitals and Performances

Studio recitals are held several times each year. Recitals are an important part of piano instruction and participation is generally required of all students. Exceptions may be made due to prolonged illness or absence.

Students who are adequately prepared may also be offered additional performance opportunities.

A recital fee will apply to the June recital at Mt. Spokane high school.

Lesson Evaluations

Progress of lessons will be evaluated with the student teacher on a monthly basis, and as needed with the parents. Conference lessons are held annually at which time a formal evaluation of the progress of both the student and the student-teacher will be given.

Expectations

Parents will be expected to:

- Please arrive on time and pick up your child on time. Student Teachers do NOT offer extended care and it may be necessary for them to leave to attend to other activities.
- If the student comes to your home, please be prepared for their arrival and provide an undisturbed location and a quality-learning environment for the lesson.
- Pay your tuition on time (1st week of month). *All tuition issues need to be addressed to me, not the Student Teacher.*
- Follow through at home regarding practice times and lengths. Practice is REQUIRED and some children may need help in establishing quality practice routines.

Parents may expect Student Teachers to:

- Provide individualized piano instruction in a positive, caring environment, based on the learning needs of each student as determined over a period of time. They will work diligently to develop the musical potential of each student through a pedagogical approach that focuses on the development of musicianship, technical proficiency and performance.
- Participate in all Group Lessons and Recitals, which your student attends.
- Actively take part in the Student Teacher training sessions which are provided on a monthly basis
- To be consistent in scheduling and lesson availability with as few changes as possible. **STUDENT TEACHERS REQUIRE MORE FLEXIBILITY DUE TO THEIR ACADEMIC AND FAMILY OBLIGATIONS.** Please know that I am aware of all changes in schedules and any deviation to routine has been cleared by me.

Parents may expect from me:

- Weekly and monthly supervision of all Student Teachers.
- Awareness of practice issues, lesson consistency, and musical progress of your student
- Open communication and commitment to the success of both the Student Teacher and the student. I will not hesitate to contact you if I feel there are any issues, and hope you do the same.