

Piano Studio Policy for Megan Denman, February 2020

- *Contacting me-*

Currently my most convenient means of communication is thru email. I check it daily. My email is megan.denman@gmail.com

For time-sensitive issues or if email is inconvenient for you, call my cell 216-526-5369

- *Philosophy of Decision to Take Lessons:*

As other sections of this policy indicate, music can and should be fun, but there is work required just like other school subjects, in order to succeed. Just as a science experiment may take lots of critical thinking and preparation in order to have a fulfilling result, so music takes an amount of diligent practice in order for playing piano to be rewarding.

- *Who I teach:*

I am willing to teach any age or ability of student, beginning with their being of the age to start preschool, and that they are able to read. I will teach students who only want to study for a short period of time, and also those who want to continue study for a longer time. I will teach students whose parents support and assist in practice routines, and also students who actively seek specific piano goals for themselves.

I am willing to teach students with disabilities, including autism/Asperger's syndrome spectrum, although I am not a specialist in this area. If the student, parent and teacher are not all satisfied with outcomes, another teacher can be found.

- *Recommended practicing for half hour lessons:*

20 minutes of practicing, 6 days a week. (or 40 minutes every other day)

- *For 45 mins and hour lessons,*

30-45 minutes of practicing 6 days a week is expected, if not more.

- **If I regularly see that a student is unable to meet the recommended practicing time, I will consult with the student/parent and see what should be done. I reserve the right to cancel a students' lesson if sufficient practice goals made by student and teacher are not being met. If a student wishes to exceed the minimum practice requirement, then I, the student and parents will gladly watch their continued progress and expanded potential.

- ***Music choices-***

I allow for flexibility in the choosing of performance repertoire. If a student has a desire to learn a particular genre, I will accommodate them. If parents have in mind a particular method book, I will accommodate it as long as I feel it will promote the student's progress. If students and teachers have no particular music in mind, I will decide music that I feel would best fit the student's age, ability level and personality.

I encourage my students to learn as many different genres of music as possible. This includes jazz, popular, classical repertoire, and more!

- ***Parental Involvement-***

I am very happy to have parents monitor practicing, listen in on lessons, and be a source of encouragement to their children, regardless of age. For students ages 5-8, I feel that some parental involvement in practicing at home is a necessity in order for the student to progress. If parents are diligent about having their children get their math homework for school done on time, it is also important to make sure their child's piano practicing is attended to. I recognize a parent's support as an integral part of each child's success.

-***How I expect students to learn music-***

In general, I will have students work on multiple pieces, polishing and memorizing only a few. I will not expect every piece to be perfectly learned, but once important concepts have been taken from pieces, new music can be learned. If a student dislikes a certain piece, I will not force them to polish it.

I set short-term goals for what pieces students learn, and expect them to achieve reasonable progress each week within that. For long-term goals, such as learning music for a recital or student-chosen function, I let students choose pieces they especially like.

-***Curriculum-***

All of my students will have a basic knowledge of music theory supporting their piano study, and I usually have them complete a relevant workbook or supplement. I also incorporate many technical facets of piano playing into my teaching that lead to greater ease of motion and expression. Sight-reading, improvisation and simple composition exercises all lead to the goal of well-rounded musicianship.

-***Recitals-***

I highly encourage all my students to participate in recitals, although it is not a requirement. I think it is a worthwhile musical growth experience for students to perform music for others in some setting. Music is originally a shared art, and students learn a great deal from watching and listening to their peers as they perform in recitals. Besides the educational benefit and building of confidence, most students find recitals a lot of fun!

-Payment of Fees-

\$25 per half hour lesson

\$40 per 45 minute lesson

\$48 per hour lesson

Option 1- Fees are due at the end of the month, for that entire month. For example, if there are 4 weeks in a month, for half hour lessons, you would pay \$100 for the month of lessons, at the last lesson of that month. I accept cash, check, credit or Venmo/Paypal.

Option 2- Pay for each lesson individually each week as lessons are taken. You are still committed to lessons by the month.

If there is financial constraint, contact me directly and we can work out a solution.

If fees are late and I haven't been contacted, I will not be required to teach the next lesson.

-Scheduling and Cancellation Policy-

Students are expected to attend weekly lessons on a monthly basis. I will email at the beginning of each month to see if there are any scheduled holiday/vacation conflicts for the student or myself.

For a last minute (less than 24 hours) student cancellation, it's up to me to decide if a credit or reschedule of the lesson will be done. (I will give a credit or reschedule in a case of emergency or severe illness)

If I have a conflict with the normal lesson time, you won't be charged, and there will be ample advanced notice.

Happy music making!!

