



Denise Lepard's Piano Studio Policies for 2021-2022 Lesson Year

Please refer to the studio website www.lepardpiano.com for updated information throughout the year. There are pictures, videos, policies, a calendar, online registration, etc... If you haven't visited, I encourage you to check it out.

1. Lesson fees: There will be a modest increase this year. For current families, the rate increase will go into effect January 1, 2022. For newly enrolled families after August 1, 2021, the new rates are in effect immediately.

30 minutes: \$30
45 minutes: \$45
60 minutes: \$60

WHAT DOES YOUR LESSON FEE INCLUDE?

- One-on-one lesson time
- Subscription to Tonara - online practice log, lesson tracking system where students can message me and other students in a safe platform
- Planning for lessons and recitals
- Text/email support
- Piano Maestro subscription (in trial phase iPad support ONLY)
- Cookies and Carols Event
- Annual Spring Recital costs and awards
- Rewards for studio challenges
- Access to my lending library
- Peace of mind that your child is being taught by a credentialed teacher who is also a member of the Music Teachers' Association of California

2. Payment methods:

(in order of preference)

1. Apple Pay (easily texted on an apple phone)
2. Zelle
3. Check
4. Cash

Because of the flexibility of payments available to you, payment is expected at lesson time, but no later than 9 pm of lesson day. **I will continue to send out a text reminder when necessary, as I am getting set up with an online invoicing system.**

4. Attendance

Regular attendance is key to success! However, unforeseen events may cause your child to miss a lesson. Please keep in mind the following:

- CANCELLATIONS: Since I do not charge monthly tuition like many teachers/studios, I am quite understanding with a student missing an occasional lesson. However, I will require 24 hours advanced notice for any cancellation unless it is a true emergency. I realize that the public schools have year-round school, so please just let me know ahead of time when your child will not be here for lesson during Fall, Winter or Spring Breaks or any other time off. **Notice less than 24 hours will be considered a no show** unless deemed an emergency.
- NO SHOWS: Please plan to pay the **FULL AMOUNT** of your lesson fee if you do not show up for your scheduled lesson. Two consecutive no shows without payment WILL be AUTOMATIC grounds for dismissal from the studio.
- I block out a time for your child. Most teachers charge for this time regardless of your child's attendance. Please be respectful of my time.

*Please know, my full-time job is teaching at Mater Dei Catholic High School. At times, I will need to cancel a lesson because of schedule conflict or illness. I will text as soon as I am able and will do my best to reschedule the lesson to an agreeable time if possible. Thank you for understanding.

5. SCHEDULE and Events For 2021-2022

(subject to change) – Lesson Calendar is available on website

At this time the studio will be closed on the following days:

9/6 Labor Day

11/22-11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday Break

12/23-1/2 Christmas/Winter break

2/21 Presidents' Day

4/11-17 Easter Break

5/30 Memorial Day

Events - It is my hope that everyone can participate in both, but it is expected that students participate in the end of year recital.

1. Christmas Party: December 12, 2021 at 2 pm (Students will informally play their Christmas selections, followed by hot cocoa, juice and cookies)
2. End of Year Recital date: Sunday June 12, 2022 at 1 pm and 2:30 pm (Depending on studio enrollment, each recital will have 8-12 students.)

6. CURRICULUM:

I currently use Alfred Basic, Bastien New Traditions and Faber Piano Adventure Methods, however I may also use Schaum and John Thompson to supplement. If your child had lessons previously, I will start with the methods they have been using then shift over to a method that I am more familiar with. Siblings will typically have different methods. Depending on the method and supplemental materials, expect to spend \$16-30 each level. I will purchase the books and sell them to you at my cost, plus tax.

7. OTHER Policies:

A .PRACTICE: It is very important that your child practice daily. Younger or beginning students should practice 15-20 minutes. If that seems like too much time, break it down to 2 daily sessions of 10 minutes each. After the first year of lessons, practice time varies for each individual student, but can range from 30-60 minutes. Please do NOT miss a lesson if you child did not practice. Chances are your child will not progress very well or learn the new concept/technique incorrectly which will require much more practice time to unlearn.

B.INSTRUMENT: While a piano, whether digital with *fully weighted* keys or an acoustic piano, is an investment, students do much better when playing on a solid instrument. Keyboards, may be acceptable for the first 3-6 months of lessons, but they are very limiting because of many nuances (touch, feel, pedals, sound, etc...). If your child starts with a keyboard, I will let you know when it is time to invest in a solid instrument. If you have the room for an acoustical piano, it is a buyer's-market and you may be able to purchase a used piano at a bargain price. Ask me for recommendations! ☺ I also have a few tuners I use to tune both of my pianos, and would be happy to share their information.

C. TERMINATION: If you find you need to end your student's lessons with me, please kindly let me know 2 weeks in advance. I have an active waiting list. I reserve the right to immediately terminate a student for non-payment, continual lack of practice, frequent absences, or behavior issues (rarely an issue because I am a credentialed special education teacher who can accommodate most behaviors).

8. COVID 19:

Due to the nature of the pandemic, updates will be kept on the website. Online lessons will remain optional.