



## Denise Lepard's Piano Studio Policies for 2022-2023 Lesson Year

*Please refer to the studio website [www.lepardpiano.com](http://www.lepardpiano.com) for updated information throughout the year. There are pictures, videos, policies, online registration, etc. If you haven't visited, I encourage you to check it out.*

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Lesson year! I am so grateful you have returned to the studio, or if you are a new family, I am happy to have you join our extensive family of music lovers! The following is the annual update of studio policies.

Parent(s) are encouraged to sit in during lessons, especially for beginners and students under the age of 8. I do have a Nest security camera in the studio for the home security, but a benefit of that is to ensure safety of your student.

### **1. Lesson fees:**

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 (Free for you, but must have iPad to access)
- 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
- Life skills such as critical thinking, self-discipline and determination

## 2. Payment methods:

(In order of preference)

1. Apple Pay (easily texted on an apple phone)
2. Venmo ("Thank you" in the comments is enough)
3. Zelle
4. Cash
5. Check

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 balance my attendance at the end of the month, and should you have any outstanding lesson fees upon receiving a text message reminder, kindly add a \$5 per lesson outstanding late fee.**

*\*Some families opt to prepay 4-5 lessons at a time, since I do not charge by the month. I send them a text when their last credit is used so they can "recharge". I encourage families who can to do so. While this works for some, I understand how difficult monthly tuition can be, so I will remain at a per lesson payment.*

## 3. 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. Many teachers charge for this time regardless of your child's attendance. Please be respectful of my time, as I do my best to reciprocate.

*\*Please know, my full-time job is teaching at Grossmont Union High School District. 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.*

#### 4. SCHEDULE and Events For 2022-2023

(Subject to change – I will text out notifications as soon as I know of changes)

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

- 9/5 Labor Day
- 11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday Break
- 12/23-12/30 Winter Break; Optional Lessons 1/2-1/7 (Advanced Sign-up required)
- 2/20 Presidents' Day
- 2/25 Personal Day (Pending – will confirm as date approaches)
- 4/3-4/8 Spring Break
- 4/16 Personal Day (Pending – will confirm as date approaches)
- 5/29 Memorial Day
- 6/17 NO LESSONS – Recital Day

#### **NEW: SUMMER 2023 Intensive: June 19-July 31 (Advanced Sign up Required)**

- This will be a trial run next summer. If you do not opt in for Summer Intensive, you will resume lessons July 31.
- Cost: \$250 for five 60-minute lessons (\$10 per lesson discount based on regular fees) OR \$200 for five 45-minute lessons (\$5 per lesson discount based on regular fees)
- Lessons must be prepaid and used during the summer intensive as there will be no refunds.
- Siblings can come at the same time, as one sibling can use the digital piano or work on Theory or other piano games.
- Priority for scheduling in the following year.

#### **EVENTS**

It is my hope that every student can participate in more than one of the following, but it is **expected** that students participate in the end of year recital.

1. **Sonata Contest:** \$40 fee 11/20/2023 at PLNU – You will be invited to join, however if you are interested and have not been invited, please ask. This is a competition, HIGHLY competitive and requires hours of dedicated practice and memorization. Pieces will be distributed in August.
2. **Christmas Party:** December 16, 2021 at 2-4 pm (Students will informally play their Christmas selections, followed by hot cocoa, juice and yummy cookies) Open house – Bring a plate of your favorite cookies. There will be a sign up. (Covid permitting)
3. **MTAC Certificate of Merit Testing:** Preparation begins in the fall with testing finishing in February. This is optional, and requires practice and dedication. Student is tested in areas of Repertoire, Technique, Sight Reading, Theory and Aural Skills. I will assign a level at which I believe the student will be successful at. Students usually begin CM testing after 2 years of lessons. I will invite your student when I feel they are ready. The fees last year for testing (paid to MTAC) ran **approximately \$120** for online testing. All students who participated last year not only passed all areas but achieved State Honors.
4. **End of Year Recital:** Saturday June 17, 2022 at 1 pm

## 5. CURRICULUM:

I currently use Alfred Basic, Bastien New Traditions and Faber Piano Adventure Methods, however I may supplement with other methods and repertoire. 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.

## 6. 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 your 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. PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT! (Your child needs to practice correctly.)

**B. INSTRUMENTS:** 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).

## 7. COVID 19:

- Hand sanitizer will be available for parents and students to sanitize their hands upon entry and teacher between students.
- Keyboard is wiped down between families with high percentage isopropyl alcohol.
- Parent sitting area has a vinyl table cloth that is wiped down each day before lessons with a Clorox wipe.
- There are three HEPA filtration systems with ionizers in the downstairs of my home (and 3 upstairs).
- Masks are always optional.
- If your child has any sign of illness, please notify me ASAP and we can determine the best option for the scheduled lesson.
- If your child has a fever, obviously too ill for lessons, tests positive for Covid-19, or someone at home has Covid-19 – PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME!