

Frequently asked questions

During lesson time usually from 2-6pm I don't answer the phone or email as I am putting all my attention toward the student I'm teaching at the moment. If you need to get a hold of me, text or leave a message. I will generally check my texts in between students.

ARRIVING LATE: Do your best to be on time for lessons. For example, if your lesson is from 4:30 - 5:00 and you show up at 4:45, the lesson will still end at 5:00. Also, please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before your lesson time or pick your child up more than 5 minutes late to avoid distractions for the student I am currently teaching. If picking up the child late becomes a chronic condition, I will charge an additional fee of \$5.00 per 5 minutes delay.

PERFORMANCES: There are numerous opportunities to perform and be involved in musical activities in my studio. I highly encourage playing in the two studio recitals (December and May) but don't require it. All other performance opportunities are optional.

PIANO MAINTENANCE: Be certain your piano is tuned and in good condition. It is very discouraging to play on an out-of-tune/not-working instrument. Putting off tunings is not cost effective; a piano which is very out of tune, will most likely require several tunings over a period of weeks or months to bring it back to pitch. **If your child is starting on a keyboard, it must be touch sensitive, have a pedal, and have at least 61 keys or more. Please be aware that this will only get them through the first year.** An electronic keyboard severely limits the technical and musical skills a student can practice on at home. After that you will need to invest in either a full size, 88 key acoustic piano or a good digital piano with weighted keys to get the full benefit of piano lessons. To check for qualified piano tuners, you can go to www.ptg.org. (Piano Technique Guild website)

PRACTICING: Students need to practice daily if they expect to improve their skills on the piano. Most after-school activities, such as sports, drama, dance, or gymnastics do much of their practice and drills during the time you are at that activity. Piano – or any musical instrument – lessons work much differently. If you come to lessons for 60 minutes a week (or 30 minutes in most studios), you get instruction from the teacher and ideas on what to work on for the next week. THEN you go home and put the time in to develop those skills. You won't become secure in those skills during the piano lesson. You will develop those skills during the practice sessions at home. Since you are signed up for lessons you have already shown you are willing to make a commitment to learning to play piano. Make sure to also commit to setting time aside each week to developing those skills. For 1st year students that time commitment can be as little as 10 minutes a day 4 – 5 days a week. By the time you have been playing 5 – 6 years

you should be able to practice 45 – 60 minutes. I don't emphasize time as much as I do quality. I also emphasize setting goals and trying to accomplish those goals each week. But honestly, to achieve those goals AND to keep progressing, you must put the time in. It won't happen any other way.

MISC:

Don't ring the doorbell when coming to lessons; just walk on in.

Plan on washing your hands before lessons. You can do this at the studio.

No snacks are allowed during lesson time

Please trim your nails to allow for better hand position and technique