

Studio Notes



Welcome to a positively promising piano year!

I'd like to bid my returning families a sincere welcome back! It's my privilege to present the "Year of the P's." Pirates, Peanuts™, Penguins and Performance will figure prominently this year, as well as the music of composers like Pachelbel. I'm predicting a phenomenal year for my piano prodigies—and, as always, I count it a privilege to teach each of my students.

Orientation week group lessons September 4-6

I've always thought that a "soft start" to the piano year—that is, starting the year by reviewing notes, rhythms, and music terms/symbols **IN GROUPS**—would be a smart way to begin a piano year. Not only is the review beneficial after several weeks away from the piano, but group lessons also build a sense of community. Well, this year, it's finally going to happen. Because I'll be attending a music conference in Nashville the second week of September, I'm choosing to begin my piano year early, in groups, to ease my students into a practice routine that works for them. Watch for an email from **SignUpGenius** asking you to sign your child up for a group lesson—**September 4, 5, or 6**—that works best with your family's busy fall schedule. Please note that Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday have group lessons from **4:30-5:30 PM**. There is also a **6:30-7:30 PM** option on Tuesday. My new fall schedule will kick off **September 17-20**.

New for 2018-2019—The Practice Matrix

	Daily practice	Not much or NO practice
Parental support	Fastest possible	Slow progress
Not much or NO parental support	Reasonable progress (unusual)	No progress

There are two ways to ensure progress at home. The first, of course, is practice. The second is the level of parental support the student receives. **Many parents don't realize the key role they play in their child's progress.** They think it's possible to drop their child off for 30 minutes each week and, somehow, the teacher will transform their child into a competent pianist. They assume that if the child truly wants to learn then surely they will motivate themselves to practice (which, as we know, rarely happens). This year, my goal is for each student to develop a **practice habit**. The student, together with the parent, will determine not only how many days each week they'll practice (I recommend 5 days per week), but also the time of day they'll practice. The goal is to create a habit—that on a certain day at a certain time the

student knows to head to the piano. Your completed parent log will tell me if your child stuck with the practice plan or not AND whether your child needed encouragement to go to the piano or if they went on their own. Students will receive contest credit for each week the parent and student logs are completely filled out. Thanks in advance for helping your child develop a practice habit which will, ultimately, lead to a successful year at the piano!

Piano payments (semester or annual) due September 4-6

When you registered online for piano lessons, you chose to pay either by the semester or by the year. If paying by the semester, to make budgeting for lessons easier for my piano families, I divide the total cost of lessons for the year into two equal payments. Cost for a 30-minute piano lesson is **\$24**. There are 27 lessons this piano year. **The first payment also includes a \$60 per student annual fee.** I use the fees collected to pay for music I order for your child, pay shipping costs for the music I order, offset subscription costs for studio tools like **Piano Maestro** and **Sprout Beat**, and cover expenses like recital hall rental and piano maintenance.

Dates to note:

- **September 4-6**—Orientation week group lessons/**piano payments due**
- **September 10-13, October 4 & 8** (Mrs. Hunter will be out of town)—No piano lessons
- **October 23-25** (Teachers' conference)—No piano lessons
- **October 31** (Halloween)—No piano lessons
- **November 20-22** (Thanksgiving break)—No piano lessons
- **Sunday, April 7, 2019**, Spring Recital at Oakwood Village Auditorium (West)

Absence policy reminder

Your child's lesson time is reserved exclusively for your child. Furthermore, like gymnastics, dance or swimming, the tuition you pay is based on enrollment, not attendance. **Lessons you choose to miss will not be made up.** I do not give refunds or credits for missed lessons unless the missed lesson is a result of **my** absence. In the event that your child's seasonal activity (practices, games, meets, etc.) changes to fall during your child's reserved piano lesson time, please understand that I am under no obligation to assist you in arranging a new piano lesson day/time for your child. That responsibility lies entirely with you. When you register your children for piano lessons, you are **committing them to an entire year** of lessons **on the agreed upon day and at the agreed upon time.** I depend on the income I receive from piano lessons. **No refunds** will be given should your child drop piano after the annual or semester payment has been made.