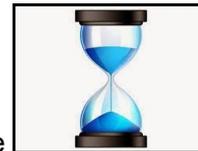


# Studio Notes

## Welcome!

A warm welcome to my new piano families and a sincere welcome back to my returning piano families! My studio theme for the 2020-2021 piano year is “**MUSIC!—In Times Like These.**” In addition to recognizing the fact that practicing piano and attending music lessons—virtual or in-person—lend a sense of normalcy to our students’ lives in an otherwise uncertain COVID-19 world, my students will spend a portion of this piano year being “timed” and “timing” themselves. We’ll use apps: **Staff Wars, Rhythm Lab, Note Rush,** and **Piano Maestro.** My students will also receive a three-minute sand timer. Beginning students will spend three minutes on each assigned piece daily. Older students will use their three-minute sand timers to “spot treat” trouble sections in one or two of their assigned pieces. Students will also participate in a **100 Days of Practice Challenge** and a **30-Piece Challenge.** In times like these, my students and I find comfort in music. **Music is ESPECIALLY for times like these.**



## Piano lessons in a pandemic (Read my **Studio Policies** for details.)

- My piano families will choose virtual (online) piano lessons via **Google Duo**, in-person piano lessons, OR a combination of these.
- Should a safer-at-home order again be issued, ALL piano lessons will automatically revert to online lessons.
- Students coming to my home studio will sanitize their hands upon arriving and again when leaving.
- Students and teacher will wear face masks in the studio. Students’ face masks must be in place upon arrival and stay in place throughout the lesson and departure.
- The piano will be sanitized between students.
- A second piano will be utilized by the teacher so she can play sections of music for students to hear or play duets with students.
- Each student will receive a mesh bag containing a pencil, highlighter, eraser, sticker sheet, game token, and 3-minute sand timer. **The bag must accompany students to in-person lessons.** Hopefully, this eliminates cross-contamination from students and teacher sharing lesson “equipment.” **Virtual students must keep the bag close by at lesson time. Materials in the bag must be used for piano lessons only.**

## How did Mrs. Hunter spend her summer vacation?

In addition to teaching private (in-person and virtual) lessons at my home studio and taking a quick trip to Florida to visit my son and daughter-in-law and two of my grandkids, I spent much of my summer break planning for teaching piano lessons in a pandemic, I watched a ZOOM workshop for piano teachers hosted by Heid Music, created piano contests for the upcoming year, made and laminated music games/activities, and searched for and purchased music my students may enjoy playing throughout the year.

## Piano payments (semester or annual) due September 14-17, 2020

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 (virtual or in-person) is **\$25.** There are 28 lessons this piano year. **The first payment also includes a \$60 per student annual fee.** I use the fees I collect 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**, purchase apps I use in-studio, and cover expenses like recital hall rental and piano upgrades and maintenance.

## Dates to note:

- **September 14-17—First week of piano lessons/piano payments due**
- **October 12-15—No piano lessons**
- **November 23-26—No piano lessons (Thanksgiving break)**
- **December 14-17—Final week of piano lessons in 2020**
- **January 4-7, 2021—Piano lessons resume/piano payments due**
- **Sunday, April 25, 2021—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. When you register your children for piano lessons, you are **committing them to an entire year** (September through May) of lessons **on the agreed upon day and at the agreed upon time.** **No refunds** will be given should your child drop piano after the annual or semester payment has been made.