

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.

Piano lessons at ORLS begin August 28

If you've taken piano lessons before (with me or with another teacher), please bring all materials used last year to your first piano lesson. I will provide all necessary materials for beginning students.

New for 2018-2019—The Practice Matrix

	Daily practice	Not much or NO practice
Parental support	Fastest possible progress	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

I won't be billing you for piano lessons (ORLS pulls funds from your account to pay me), but I will submit a bill to ORLS for any music I purchase for your child. I will then be reimbursed by ORLS (ORLS pulls funds from your account to pay me for music).

Dates to note:

Please make a note of these dates on your calendars now, so they don't catch you by surprise later!

- **August 28—Piano lessons begin**
- **September 11—No piano lessons** (Mrs. Hunter will be out of town)
- **September 25—No piano lessons** (MAP testing)
- **November 20—No piano lessons** (Thanksgiving break)
- **Sunday, December 9—Christmas Recital at ORLS**
- **Thursday, April 4—Spring Recital at ORLS**

Absence policy reminder

Regardless of how many times your child is absent for a piano lesson, he/she will receive just **one make-up lesson**. Make-up lessons take place the final week of piano (April 30).

**Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally—
it comes from what you do consistently.**