

Quarter Notes

Welcome!

“**Welcome**” to my new piano families and “**Welcome back**” to my returning piano families! My theme for the 2020-2021 piano year at Westside Christian School is “**MUSIC!—In Times Like These.**” In addition to recognizing the fact that practicing piano and attending piano lessons—virtual or in-person—lend a sense of normalcy to students’ lives, 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**. Each of 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

- Westside Christian School piano families have chosen virtual (online) piano lessons via **Google Duo**, in-person piano lessons, OR a combination of in-person and virtual lessons.
- Should a safer-at-home order again be issued, ALL piano lessons will automatically revert to online lessons.
- Students are committing to a full school year of piano lessons whether they are virtual or in-person. There are NO refunds.
- Students will sanitize their hands upon arriving and again when leaving the piano room.
- No unrelated students will be in the piano room at the same time. Students waiting for lessons will wait outside the piano room until the previous student has left and the piano has been sanitized.
- Students and teacher will wear face masks in the piano room. Students’ face masks must be in place upon arrival and stay in place throughout the lesson and departure. There will be a plexiglass divider between the student and the teacher.
- The piano will be sanitized between students.
- Each piano student will receive a mesh bag (“COVID kit”) containing a pencil, highlighter, eraser, sticker sheet, game token, and 3-minute sand timer. **The bag must accompany students to in-person lessons.** We hope 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.**

Piano recitals

Two piano recitals are scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year. The first is a sacred recital with the theme “We Believe.” Students will play pieces that loosely fit with the **Apostles’ Creed**. The sacred recital usually takes place in our church sanctuary. The second recital is a secular recital that usually takes place at Oakwood Village Auditorium on Mineral Point Road. Because of the pandemic, both recitals are **tentatively** scheduled. Nevertheless, piano students will receive recital pieces to learn and will hone the pieces as if the recitals will be taking place as scheduled.

Dates to note—

- Piano lessons begin—**September 8-10**
- No piano lessons—**October 13-15**
- No piano lessons—**October 27-29**
- **Sacred recital—Sunday, November 15**, in the sanctuary of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, time TBD
- No piano lessons—**November 24-26**
- **Spring Recital—Saturday, April 10, 2021**, at Oakwood Village Auditorium (West)

Absence policy

A **Flex Week** is scheduled at the end of the second semester to make up **ONE** lesson a student may have missed due to illness, family emergency, snow day, school assembly, or field trip. **No credit will be given if more than one lesson per year is missed.**

Note-able Quotable

*Lavish attention on the most difficult measures in your music.
That will bring them to the level of your best measures.*