

Quarter Notes

Welcome!

Welcome to my piano studio at Westside Christian School! We've got an art-inspired (*and fun!*) year ahead with the theme "**Music is ART!**".



The 30 Days of Consecutive Practice Challenge

Because this challenge was unbelievably popular **and beneficial** last year, this will be the second consecutive year that my students will start the year by attempting to practice piano for 30 consecutive days. After 30 days of making daily time to practice, a practice habit should be developing. **The goal is to make your child an independent, faithful practicer.** Once this first challenge has been met, students will begin to practice according to the **Weekly Practice Schedule** that they'll create with a parent's help. The **Weekly Practice Schedule** encourages students to make time five days per week to practice piano. The minutes per day your child should practice varies by age and level of ability. More emphasis is definitely on the quality of the practice session rather than on the quantity of the practice session.

As you can see from the **30 Days of Consecutive Practice Challenge** sheet, the student doesn't necessarily need to practice each assigned piece every day for the initial 30 days. Because I'm aware that some weekdays and weekends are busier than others for my piano families and that you likely may have made plans to travel away from home and from your piano, I've included some easy practice days and even some days "practice" can take place away from the piano. If your child misses a practice day, however, the challenge has failed. Encourage your child to try again with a new challenge sheet and a renewed determination to meet the 30-day challenge.

New this year, this challenge will be a studio-wide, **collaborative** effort. When a student brings the completed challenge form to his/her lesson, he/she will affix a puzzle piece to our "Starry Night" puzzle board. Once each of my students has completed the challenge, the "Starry Night" puzzle will be complete and each student will receive a prize.

Piano Performances

All students in Grades 2-8 in the WCS piano program will be assigned at least one date to play for a Wednesday chapel service. Students in Grades K-8 will participate in Christmas recitals in December. Spring recital performances will take place in the church sanctuary on **Saturday, April 13**. Details on these performances will be shared as soon as they are available. Please make a note of the spring recital date so your child doesn't miss out on this "Super Bowl" of the piano year event.

Piano Grades and Progress Reports

All students in the Elective Music Program (EMP) receive semester grades on their report cards. Students will be graded on the following scale: **A**=Advanced, **S**=Successful, **P**=Progressing, **E**=Emerging, **N**=Needs Improvement. Additionally, progress reports are prepared to be shared by classroom teachers at Parent-Teacher Conferences in October and February.

Dates to note—

- Piano lessons begin—**August 29-31**
- No piano lessons—**October 3-5, 10-12**
- **Spring Piano Recital, Saturday, April 13**

Note-able Quotable

Music is the shorthand of emotion.