

2019-2020 STUDIO POLICIES, FEES, EXPECTATIONS

WELCOME

I am excited to be a part of your child's musical journey and want to assure you that I will bring my love and passion for music and the piano to each lesson to the best of my ability. In my lessons, I strive for balance of material - technique, musicianship, tone development, and an understanding of the form, theory, and historical context of the music. This can be challenging when faced with the limits of time, but when done with a sense of humor and a modest amount of organizational skills, it is definitely possible and will reap great rewards! I welcome your input during the year as to how you feel the lessons are going.

I would like to encourage my students to attend musical events during the year - at least one concert per semester - of classical piano, chamber music, orchestral, or choral - something that demonstrates the result of dedication and commitment that is so integral to musical studies. NEC and Rivers School Conservatory in Weston (where I teach), as well as other local schools offer many concerts throughout the year, either faculty concerts or student concerts. I will also keep you informed of my concert schedule so that my students can observe for themselves what I am telling them 'over and over' again during their lessons.

As part of my studio, my students will be 'strongly and lovingly encouraged' to participate in two studio recitals during the school year, generally held in January and May. There will be other performance opportunities available through local schools as well as through my membership in NEPTA and MTNA. I will also offer workshops during the year as part of your tuition. These workshops may have a theme: Rhythm, Sight Reading, Theory - or be performance based as a way to prepare for a recital.

Thank you for choosing me to teach your child. I look forward to a wonderful musical journey.

Ellie

STUDIO INFORMATION

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

To state the obvious, students are expected to practice between lessons! It is especially helpful for a student to practice soon after their lesson in order to solidify the concepts we have just covered. I ask my students to strive for 5 days of practice for the same amount of time as their lesson. While that isn't always possible, it seems like a realistic and attainable goal, and one that will produce the most benefit. Students should have an acoustic piano or a keyboard with 88 weighted keys and one/two pedals. The piano or keyboard should be in a place that allows for uninterrupted practice time. There should also be an adjustable chair or bench, or a pillow to sit on for proper height at the keyboard.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental support is crucial to your child's musical success. You need not have an understanding of music, or piano, but should be available to help with the organization of practice time. It is essential that your child has a routine for practicing, and a designated practice time will be a tremendous help for accomplishing the desired goals. Parents may need to sit with young children during part of their practice time. I will also ask for a mid-week "check in" with your child to see if he/she is reading my instructions and following them during the practice time. While I generally ask parents not to attend the lessons on a regular basis, you are always welcome to come to a few lessons to get a better sense of what I am expecting.

ABSENCE POLICY

One excused absence is allowed per semester and will be made up at the end of the semester immediately following the last regular lesson of the semester, or earlier if possible. An excused absence means that I am notified by noon on the day of the lesson. I will make-up or refund money for any lessons I miss. Please keep in mind that I will not make up a missed "make-up" lesson.

I cannot guarantee more than one make-up per term, and have a very full schedule of teaching and performing. If you know about any potential conflicts, let me know as far in advance as possible and I will do my best to re-schedule to another time during that week to avoid disruption in your child's progress. This will still be considered an excused absence, but will allow for continuity in the lessons.

PAYMENTS

Each Term is 16 weeks. Term I will begin on Tuesday, September 10. Term II will begin without a break after Term I and makeup lessons are fulfilled. Payment one (or complete payment) is due August 15 for Term I and January 15 for Term II. Payment II (if you choose the payment plan) is due October 15 and March 15. Please make a note of these dates on your calendar. Contact me for pricing.

PARKING

You may park in the double width driveway on the garage side of the house. Please park enough to the left or right of the driveway to allow another car to park next to you. This will prevent students from getting blocked in by the next student. Parking is also available on Katherine road. Please cross Church street carefully as this is a busy street. Do not park in the small driveway next to the porch or use my neighbors' driveways.

CALENDAR

Please refer to the 2019-20 Lesson Calendar for the schedule of lessons.

SUMMER LESSONS

My summer teaching schedule will be decided later in the school year. Students intending to continue lessons the following school year are expected to take some lessons during the summer. It is not advisable to stop lessons completely with the expectation that your child can simply work on his/her own. Progress is interrupted and too much time will be spent relearning what was achieved the previous year. It is not necessary to sign up for the maximum number of lessons available, but even 3-4 lessons during the summer will reap tremendous benefit.

MY STUDIO

My studio is in my home and I ask that you treat it with respect. Please remove shoes before entering the piano studio. Slip on shoes will be provided or you may bring your own. Arrive no more than 5 minutes before your lesson time and wash your hands before entering the piano studio. Parents/siblings may wait quietly in the 2nd floor sitting area.

WHAT DOES YOUR TUITION PAY FOR?

Private weekly lesson time with the student.

Lesson preparation: music selection, lesson planning, curriculum development.

Communication. Email check ins, video/audio correspondence, scheduling of additional events such as recitals, festivals, competitions.

Two studio recitals per year: Facility rental w/piano tuning (\$240+)

Professional organization memberships, including the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the New England Piano Teachers Association (NEPTA). These allow my students to be eligible to participate in appropriate recitals, festivals, competitions and performance events in Massachusetts.

Professional journals (Clavier Companion, American Music Teacher) to keep current on new teaching materials and trends.

Studio expenses: piano tunings and repairs, music books and teaching materials.

Property taxes, self-employment taxes, bookkeeping and studio insurance.

Professional development: I am continuously looking for new approaches and revising my teaching materials.

A sense of humor!! Priceless!