

## **Studio policies and 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 reaps 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.

## **Expectations**

To state the obvious, students are expected to practice between lessons! It is especially helpful for a student to practice soon after the 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. Parents are expected to help their child with the organizational logistics of scheduling practice time between lessons. I will do my best to provide clear instructions to follow during the week, but it is the responsibility of the student and parent to read my instructions.

## **Absence Policy**

One excused absence is allowed per semester and will be made up at the end of the semester or earlier if possible. An excused absence means that I am given 24 hour notice. 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.

➔ **Note:** 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. If I need to reschedule more than twice in a semester, I may need to consider that a makeup lesson.