



Suzuki Piano Studio

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Teaching Policy 2020-2021

CALENDAR Weekly lessons for the school year of 2020-2021 will be given from Tuesday, September 8 through Saturday, June 12. Summer lessons for the rest of June and in July are optional and charged by the lesson. Lessons after June 12 will be continued at the usual lesson time where possible but can be changed to a different schedule if desired. I will be on vacation in August so there will be no lessons that month.

NO LESSONS ON: Labor Day (Monday Sept. 7)

Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 26)

Portland Public Schools Winter Break (Monday, Dec. 21 – Friday, Jan. 1) except for scheduled makeup lessons

PPS Spring Break (Monday, March 22 – Sunday, March 28) except for scheduled makeup lessons

Memorial Day (Monday, May 31)

Please note that there WILL be lessons on Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day (Monday, Oct. 12), Halloween (Saturday, Oct. 31), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 18) and President's Day (Monday, Feb. 15).

TUITION An invoice for monthly tuition will be sent out at the beginning of each month. Monthly tuition is due on the first lesson of that month. Tuition is calculated on how many lesson days there are for that student in that month. Tuition is payable by check made out to **Eithne Boyer**, Venmo, Zelle or PayPal. If you choose to use PayPal please choose Friends or Family NOT Services or Business. If you use a bank account instead of a card PayPal will not charge you their fee (about \$4.65).

TUITION FEES Lesson length depends on the age and playing level of the student.

30 minute lesson=\$30.00

45 minute lesson=\$45.00

60 minute lesson=\$60.00

MISSED LESSONS The lesson time agreed upon by parent and teacher is reserved for that student each week. If a student must cancel a lesson they may schedule a makeup lesson on the makeup days. No makeup lessons will be given for NO SHOWS.

MAKEUP DAYS PPS Winter Break on December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30

PPS Spring Break March 22 - 26

June 14 - 30

In person and virtual lessons on Zoom are available for makeup lessons on the specific makeup days. Because of the added flexibility of online makeup lessons, these may be available on other days as well. There will be **NO CREDITS given for lessons cancelled/missed by the student**. If a lesson is cancelled by myself, i.e. due to sickness, there will be a credit applied to the student's next month's tuition.

IN PERSON LESSONS: Steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure

Masks must be worn by myself and all visitors to the studio.

Students' hands must be washed (in the bathroom next to the studio) before the lesson.

Piano keys, chairs, pencils/pens used by students, doorknobs and light switches will be sanitized after each student. I recommend that the student bring their own pencil/highlighter/tabs for use during the lesson.

In person lessons are not scheduled back to back to reduce the number of people in the studio.

Please do not come to the studio if you have had any of these symptoms in the past 14 days:

Cough

Fever

Shortness of Breath

Difficulty Breathing

Flu-like Symptoms

Gastrointestinal Upset

Loss of Taste or Smell

HOME PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

All students are required to have an acoustic piano or digital piano in their own home for daily practice.

An acoustic piano must have all 88 black and white keys functioning/sounding (not sticking, etc.) and functioning pedals. It should be tuned 1 -2 times a year (Spring and Fall when the weather changes are the best times for tuning).

A digital piano must have 88 weighted/touch sensitive keys that are the same width as the keys on an acoustic piano (not narrower), an attached music stand and an attached pedal similar to that on an acoustic piano.

Students require a piano bench or a flat-seated chair with no arms that does not spin and is not on castors. Smaller children (usually under 12 years old) require a footstool/box/thick books to rest their feet on and an adjustable chair/bench or firm cushions/foam to sit on (so the bottom of their elbows are even with the tops of the white keys when they are sitting with curved fingertips resting on the keys).

Students must have a CD player to listen to the CDs that come with their music books and/or the means to download and listen to digital recordings of the music they will learn.

Daily practice (a minimum of 5 days a week) is required for steady progress to be made. The length of daily practice will vary according to the age, attention level and playing level of the student. The practice assignment given at the lesson should be completed in each daily practice. However, on days when that is not possible SOME practice is always better than NO practice!

STUDENT RECITALS (optional) For students with 1 or more years of instruction.

Time/Location: TBA

THE OREGON SUZUKI INSTITUTE (optional) all levels

Time/Location: TBA

OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SYLLABUS EVALUATION/DEMONSTRATION/AUDITION (optional) For students with 3 or more years of instruction.

Time/Location: TBA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS FESTIVAL (optional) For students with 3 or more years of lessons.

Time/Location: TBA

PARENT RESOURCES (websites)

frederickpianochairs.com (adjustable piano chairs and pedal extenders)

pianofootrest.com (footstools)

thepracticeshoppe.com (practice materials)

Alfred.com (music recording downloads-Amazon and iTunes)

suzukiassociation.org (info, materials, practice)

joytunes.com (Piano Maestro: fun iPad app for learning note reading)