

CHRISTINE COUCH PIANO STUDIO POLICY ~ 2020-2021

Welcome! I'm excited to begin our work together! Understanding policies and expectations will help ensure a fun, successful, and musical experience.

Lessons Overview

Piano students receive scheduled weekly lessons from September through May and two formal studio recital. Due to COVID-19, lessons and recitals are virtual until further notice. Lessons are 30, 45, or 60 minutes.

PRACTICE

Daily practice is essential and expected. Playing piano is a physical, mental, and creative exercise. Regular practice (including repetition) leads to physical mastery, which in turn allows us to express our musical ideas. At the end of each lesson, students have a specific assignment for daily practice, detailed assignments are posted in Google Classroom or emailed. Practice assignments are carefully crafted in response to the successes and struggles of the lesson, as well as, the strengths and learning style of the individual student.

Each student is expected to practice for the same length of time as his/her lesson (for example, 30 minutes) for a minimum of 5 days a week. This should be encouraged by parents/guardians. Students who repeatedly come to lessons unprepared (*from not practicing or forgetting to bring their materials*) will be subject to a warning period. Lessons may be terminated if reasonable improvement does not occur.

Parental Involvement

Please help instill a good practice habit from the get-go by making it a routine. Supervision may not be necessary, but provide the quiet time and ensure that the assignment list is being used.

Expectations

Daily Practice: see notes on practice above, and make it a good habit!

Attendance: Regular, on-time attendance with a polished assignment.

Hands Ready to Play: Nails should be kept short to ensure proper technique. Playing with long nails is like trying to run in high-heeled shoes! Students should always wash hands before the lesson.

Materials and Books

The assignment email and/or Google Classroom is our main point of contact. This gives details of the practice assignment in manageable steps and provides recommendations for easier practice. Students should always look at their assignment. A list of appropriate books for each student will be provided and it is your responsibility to purchase and bring these items for the first lesson. If you are unable to obtain these books in a timely fashion, I will purchase them and you are responsible for reimbursement.

CHRISTINE COUCH PIANO STUDIO POLICY ~ 2020-2021

Current Monthly Tuition Rates

Beginner (\$50/hour)

30 min = \$100

45 min = \$150

60 min = \$200

Intermediate (\$55/hour)

45 min = \$165

60 min = \$220

Advanced (\$60/hour)

45 min = \$180

60 min = \$240

Monthly Tuition

From September to May, tuition is paid by month only and in advance. No payments for individual lessons are accepted. Each coming month's tuition is due at the last lesson of each month. For example, tuition for October is due at the time of the last lesson/week in September. Parent(s) will receive a statement at the time of the third lesson via e-mail. The statement includes lesson fees and the amount for purchased items, such as books, etc., (if I have purchased them on behalf of the student). Payment is accepted by in-person cash payment, Personal Checks, Zelle or Apple Cash. *Please make checks payable to Christine Couch.*

A late fee of \$10.00 will be assessed if fees are not paid by the last lesson of each month. If there is ever a problem, simply call me and arrange late payment. No fee will be charged if arrangements are made in advance. I reserve the right to discontinue your lessons if tuition is not up to date. Returned checks will be assessed a \$25.00 fee. If two checks are returned within a one-year period, all future payments will only be accepted in cash.

Fifth Lessons

When any given month has five lesson days (i.e., a student has lessons on Wednesdays and there are five Wednesdays in a given month), the fifth lesson will not increase the tuition bill. These "extra lessons" are counted toward Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Breaks. This means that, for instance, in December only two or three lessons will be scheduled, but your tuition bill will be the same as had we met four times, since we had some extra lessons earlier. The monthly tuition remains the same from September through May.

In-Person Lessons

As COVID-19 continues to have risks, I will monitor the re-opening of schools and collaborate with St. Luke Catholic Church, to ensure I safe time to return to in-person lessons. I will keep you updated when this start date will occur.

CHRISTINE COUCH PIANO STUDIO POLICY ~ 2020-2021

Makeup Lessons and Cancellations

- Every effort should be made to attend every scheduled lesson.
- Please take special note of this policy in order to avoid any misunderstanding.

Missed lessons are not refunded.

No-show or cancellation with less than 24 hours' notice: You have forfeited the lesson and it will not be made up.

Advance cancellation and make-up lessons: Please notify me with at least 24 hours advanced notice to cancel a lesson. Makeup lessons are scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays only. *All makeup lessons have to be completed in the same month the original lesson was missed. Failure to makeup the lesson in the same month forfeits the lesson.*

Teacher cancellation: In the event that I must cancel, I will offer a make-up lesson.

Student Illness: Do not attend your lesson sick. Please call/email me as soon as possible and a make-up lesson will be scheduled.

Inclement Weather: Lesson cancellations due to inclement weather will no be credited, though I will do my best to schedule make-up lessons.

Withdrawal From Lessons

If you need to withdraw from lessons, I appreciate as much notice as possible. To withdraw during the school year (September - May), I charge a \$50 fee in addition to the current month's tuition. This is to partially cover the time I have reserved for you.

Discontinuation

In an extreme situation, I reserve the right to discontinue lessons with a student at any time. Disrespect, continual lateness or absenteeism, or an ongoing breach of any studio policy may result in discontinuation.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and adherence to these policies!