



John's Piano Studio

...where learning is seriously fun!

2025 Studio Policies and Information

Contact information: If you have any concerns or just want to chat, contact me at **816-585-2916** or by e-mail at johnspianostudio@gmail.com. **If any of your contact info changes**, please let me know as soon as possible.

General studio guidelines:

- I teach at 2 locations – in Grandview, MO and at Kansas City Piano in Overland Park, KS. Parking and restroom facilities are available at both locations.
- Gum, candy, and beverages are not allowed for students during lessons.

Keys (pun intended) to Success

My goals as a teacher

- Establish an environment where students of all ages and skill levels can develop and retain a love of music and the piano.
- Help students experience making music as a natural form of self-expression.
- Help students to develop a substantial repertoire of many different musical styles.
- Give students the tools to express themselves musically, using the piano as an artist would use a paintbrush.
- Give students a working knowledge of music theory and how it applies to what they're playing.
- To make sure students have a positive, self-affirming experience as they learn!

Your responsibilities as a student

- Commit to a long-term relationship with piano. Hang in there when things get tough and celebrate every accomplishment.
- Practice at least 20 minutes per day, 5 days per week.
- Know what you should be practicing and bring all your materials to every lesson every week!
- Follow instructions carefully and **ask questions**! While I can't always guarantee the quality of the answer, there's no such thing as a dumb question.
- Have fun!

Speaking of practice...

- A playlist is critical to keeping all the songs on the list alive – lists will change but the importance of being able to play **everything** on your list won't!
- It's ideal to practice at the same time(s) every day so that it becomes part of the student's routine.
- Get in the habit of practicing right **after** a lesson to reinforce any new information/material.
- Review DVD or tutorial videos within 24 hours of the lesson.
- Keep all materials in an easily accessible location.

Your responsibilities as a parent/coach

- Commit to a long-term relationship with lessons and structured practice at home. The time and money invested are worth it!
- Provide an environment conducive to successful practice/playing.
- Try to have the most inspiring instrument your budget will allow. It really does make a difference! Have your acoustic piano tuned at least twice a year. Digital pianos are fine but should have weighted keys (88 is ideal).
- Keep distractions (siblings, electronics, etc.) to a minimum.
- Meet financial commitments by the 10th of every month.
- Attend every lesson in person (if the student is under 18). Know what your student should be practicing. Encourage them when things are tough and celebrate with them when they do well.

Tuition:

- **What you pay every month is *tuition*.** It is not calculated as a per-lesson fee for services rendered because teaching is more than the time you and I spend in lessons. Your tuition also covers my lesson prep, scheduling, recording videos, phone calls, emails, event planning and scheduling, organizing performances and many other things.
- **Tuition is a flat monthly rate.** This rate is based on payments for **44 weeks of lessons per year** made in 12 equal monthly installments. All months are charged the same rate regardless of the number of weeks in each month. (*i.e., months in which vacation or sick days occur or with five lessons are charged at the same rate*). **Families can expect a yearly increase in tuition in line with the COLA (Cost of Living Allowance). For 2025, the COLA increase is 2.5%. (Source: <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>). Your January invoice will reflect that increase. If you pay by bank draft, please notify your bank of the new amount.**
- Invoices are sent via email on the 26th of each month. Tuition and fees are due on or before the first lesson of the month. **A 10% late fee will be charged to any invoice not paid by the 10th.**
- I accept cash, checks (made out to me personally), credit card, Zelle, Facebook Messenger, Venmo and PayPal. **FYI - Zelle and Messenger charge no fees...and that's good!**
- **Family Discount:** each additional family member of a full-paying student receives a 10% discount off the regular monthly tuition rate.
- If a student will be absent for more than four consecutive weeks (summer vacation, etc.), payment of tuition is needed to hold your lesson time.
- **If you choose to discontinue lessons, please let me know as soon as possible so I can offer the space to other students. As a courtesy, I request 30 days' notice. If I don't receive that notice, I ask that you pay that month's tuition.**

Holidays:

- There will be four built-in vacation weeks: the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year's, and spring break (dates to be determined). I will plan to teach Easter Sunday, Labor Day, and Memorial Day, but will do my best to work around family conflicts.
- I will also take **four** additional weeks off during the year at my discretion. **Remember, you are not paying for these weeks, thus no make-up lessons or credit will be given. The monthly flat-fee tuition you pay is for 44 lessons per year.**

Materials and Music:

- Simply Music requires that students using the method buy materials through their proprietary website. Students can expect to buy new materials every 6 - 10 weeks. Purchase of non-Simply Music materials may also be required.

Performance Opportunities

- I have one recital per year, affectionately known as 'Piano-Palooza.' This is held around the holidays (Thanksgiving or Christmas) and is open to all in-person students. Participation is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. Any student who opts not to perform is encouraged to attend.
- I also offer students the opportunity to take part in the annual Federated Music Teacher's Junior Festival and the Kansas City Music Teacher's Fall Festival. **Registration fees apply and will be charged to the student.**

Student Attendance:

- Space is reserved for each student with the understanding that we will have a lesson each week at that time. If a permanent conflict comes up, please contact me.
- **I am committed to attending every scheduled lesson. If I ever need to cancel due to illness or family emergency, I will make every attempt to reschedule missed lessons or give credit for lessons that can't be rescheduled.**
- Please try to let me know 24 hours in advance of missing a lesson, if possible.
- Please let me know if you'll be late. Because my schedule is full, your lesson may be shortened if you arrive late.
- ***Please do not come to your lesson if you are ill!*** I will work with you to schedule a make-up lesson if you let me know at least 4 hours before your lesson time. Make-up lessons for other reasons (vacations, sports conflict, etc.) will only be offered if I have an opening or cancellation in my schedule. No-shows will not be rescheduled or credited.
- I may suggest switching your lesson to an open spot in my schedule. **Saying 'no' to such requests is always OK!**
- You may switch times/dates with another student if that works for both parties.
- If school is not in session (teacher in-service day, snow day, etc.), I will still hold lessons. If roads are unsafe, we can hold lessons online.

Referral Bonus:

I appreciate families who help my studio grow by referring friends and family! I offer \$50 cash for each referral after the referred student has paid for their third month of lessons. Bonuses are limited to \$50 per family referred, but you can refer as many as you like!

These policies are in place to keep my studio running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. I really appreciate the opportunity you afford me to share the gift of music with you or your children – thank you!

Here's to another great year making music together!

John

Please sign, detach, and return to me to show that you have read and agree to these policies.

*Thanks –
John*

Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent (if minor): _____