



Policies and Tuition

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to teach your child. I look forward to giving your child an excellent piano and music appreciation education. I consider it a privilege to be involved in this aspect of your child's life. In order to ensure the musical progress of your child, I would like to share the following information with you before we begin piano lessons:

I. Parental Involvement

A. PRACTICE: Regularity of practice and good concentration during practice times are absolutely essential to good progress. Please set a definite period for practice, and see that your child has privacy while practicing. Since fruitful practice requires a high degree of concentration, it is important that the student is not distracted by siblings or common household noises. Regarding practice, I require the student to 1) Practice at least *5 days per week*, and 2) an agreed upon amount of time each day. For beginning students or students under the age of ten approximately 15-20 minutes each day is sufficient, while at least 30 minutes per day is appropriate for intermediate students or who are of the age of ten or older. This time may be broken into two practice sessions if that works for the student/family. Beginners may require supervision and guidance from parents during the early stages of practicing.

B. ENCOURAGEMENT: Be aware that good practice habits are acquired over a period of years as a result of the student's cooperation and my constant training. Encourage your child by letting them know that you enjoy hearing them practice. If not, eventually a child may not want to practice when she thinks that it is annoying to others. *It is both the parents' and my role to give encouragement to the child and to help them have pleasure and interest in seeing personal musical progress.* I will attempt to give students a well-rounded musical education by including all periods of music from Baroque to Twentieth Century and various aspects of music such as theory, history, technique, ear training, composition, etc. when appropriate. *Your attitude toward your child's music and studies helps to mold their musical likes and dislikes. Please encourage your child to do the best they can in all of the music.*

C. PROMPTNESS AND PREPAREDNESS: Please ensure that your child is five minutes early for the lessons so that the student can relax for a few minutes before the lessons begin. Remember that I often have a lesson directly after yours and sometimes cannot extend the lesson due to tardiness. In addition, have your child check their music before leaving home in order to be sure that

they have the proper materials for the lesson (all the music books they are using and their notebook). I suggest that the student has a designated bag to hold the materials. In addition, please ensure that your child's hands are washed before arriving for the lesson. Be sure your student is picked up promptly after the lesson.

D. ATTENDING LESSONS: Feel free to stay in the waiting room during lessons where you can overhear the lesson. There are several benefits to this; you observe progress firsthand, you personally learn about music, you understand exactly what I am teaching and requiring of your student, and you will be better informed in order to encourage proper practicing at home. At the same time, you are free to leave on errands as long as you return by the end of the lesson.

E. PIANO AND METRONOME: Please be sure your piano is tuned and in good working order. Either a full size, 88 key acoustic piano or a good digital piano with weighted keys and pedals is required. A metronome may be required at some point in your child's training.

F. COMMUNICATION: Problems that may arise concerning the child's interest or progress should sometimes NOT be discussed in the presence of the child. Please discuss your observations with me privately if they are not completely positive. I appreciate and value your concerns. Open communication between us is essential for a good music education for your child.

F. RECITALS: I intend to hold recitals approximately every nine months. Student participant is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. My intent is to provide a positive performance experience that is in the most non-threatening atmosphere possible. Dates and locations will be announced as they are determined.

II. Tuition and Make Up Policies

Payment of tuition is based on enrollment, not attendance. The payment of tuition installments reserves each student's exclusive lesson time.

See next page for rates for the following two options

Option 1 - PAY PER SEMESTER

If you pay for the semester in advance, I have tuition figured with one free lesson and no charge for lessons that fall on holidays*. The free lesson is intended that if you have a sick day that you can't reschedule due to your or my limited availability, you haven't paid for it anyway! If you miss more than one, we will work together to reschedule it. Many times, students' availability is more restrictive than mine! So if we can't find a mutually agreeable makeup time, then you forfeit the fee. And no refunds will be given for partial semesters. It's restrictive because I want students that are interested in committing to the four months. I know students have a lot of extracurricular activities and I think that's

great. But learning piano takes a significant commitment financially and time-wise. I find that the most successful students are those who understand that.

Option 2 - PAY PER MONTH

You still pay at the beginning of the month for the lessons in that month. The per lesson fee is higher than in Option 1, but you have this option. The month's tuition is still due at the first lesson of the month. The sickness policy is the same. If we have a mutually agreeable time for a makeup lesson, then we'll make it up. If not, you forfeit the fee for that week. The same holidays* apply as in Option 1 - see next page for tuition and named holidays when there is no lesson and no fee.

*Holidays are Labor Day, Halloween, week of Thanksgiving, two weeks at Christmas, Winter Break, Spring Break, Memorial Day (summer holidays are not listed here). If you want a lesson during a holiday week, just let me know. Many times, I'm available to teach.

A check made out to Kyla Marsh Studios is the preferred method of payment.

G: TERMINATION: Kyla Marsh Studios reserves the right to discontinue lessons for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to pay tuition or paying late more than 2 times in a semester (tuition is late if not paid by the first lesson of the month)
- Excessive missed lessons whether a cancellation notice was sent or not. More than 3 absences in a semester will be considered excessive.
- Continued lack of practice or failure to cooperate with assigned practice instructions.
- Continued lack of interest and/or uncooperative attitude during lessons.
- Other difficulties in working with students or their parents.

If a student wishes to terminate lessons at any given time during the year, the studio requires a two week notice. The student is financially responsible for all lessons until the termination date, whether the student chooses to attend or be absent.

I trust the above information will assist you as we guide your child on the journey of music-making. I am very glad to be teaching your child, and I hope that our association proves to be a long and valuable one. Please keep in close contact with me as this will help me to teach your child in the best possible way.

Sincerely, Kyla Marsh

“Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.”

Sergei Rachmaninoff