

THE PIANO STUDIO OF ERIN VANWINKLE

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Revised 18 September 2015

This policy applies only to students of the Erin VanWinkle Piano Studio. Students of St. Andrew's Conservatory and Reformation Bible College should refer to their student handbooks and course syllabi, respectively.

TUITION:

Tuition is due on the first lesson of each month. Tuition payments made after the 7th of the month will be considered late and will incur a \$10 per student late fee. Payments may be made in cash, check, or automatic bank draft. Please call or email for tuition rates.

LESSONS:

Students are expected to be present at their weekly scheduled lesson time with clean hands and neatly trimmed nails. Please do not arrive excessively early or late, as I teach in blocks, and will have a student immediately preceding or following your student. Please have your student remove their shoes once inside. The student should walk right in without knocking, so as not to disturb a lesson in progress. Students may wait quietly on the couch until I am ready for them.

MATERIALS TO BRING TO LESSONS:

Lesson book
Theory book
Technique book, if applicable
Czerny exercise book, if applicable
Notebook (I will write his or her weekly assignments in this)

ATTENDANCE:

Excused Absence: One excused absence (a lesson that will be made up later in the semester) is allowed each term. Notice must be given to me at least 24 hours in advance in order to qualify as an excused absence. Additional absences may be excused, but it is up to my discretion to schedule additional make-up lessons. Refunds for additional excused absences that do not receive a makeup lesson will not be issued.

Unexcused absence: Cancellation on day of lesson may be necessary in some cases. This unexcused absence will be made up at my discretion. Refunds for unexcused absences will not be issued.

Teacher Absence: If I have to cancel lessons for any reason, makeup lessons will be scheduled by the end of the semester. If the makeup lessons are not completed, a refund will be issued.

RECITALS:

The studio will hold two recitals each year: one at the end of the school year in May/June, and a Christmas recital in early December. All students and parents are expected to attend. Students will each play two pieces *from memory*. Using sheet music in the recital is not allowed.

Additionally, attendance at any recital or concert in which I perform is required. Attendance at classical concerts outside of this is highly encouraged, but not required.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Instrument: Students are expected to own an acoustic piano. A keyboard or digital piano may be used for the first three months of study, but a decent acoustic piano, which can be purchased for about \$500-\$800, must be acquired after that point.

Materials: Books are an additional cost to the student. When your student is in need of new books, I will notify you, and you will be able to add the cost of the books in with the next month's check.

Metronome: Students are required to own a metronome. There is a link to an online metronome on my website, and there are several free metronome apps available for iPhone and Android; any of these are acceptable if you do not wish to purchase a physical metronome.

PRACTICING:

Each student is responsible for practicing at home between lessons at least five days per week. Younger students may need extra reminders, or for the parent to sit with them. Practicing should be an uninterrupted, focused block of time. Each student should practice each day for the duration of his or her lesson length. For example, a student who has a 30-minute lesson should practice for 30 minutes, 5 days per week. Younger students may have shorter practice goals, which will be specified in their notebooks. Students should refer to their notebooks throughout each practice session for specific instructions on how to practice. Consistent practice should be the rule, not the exception. *Anything other than regular, daily practice is unacceptable.* Students are expected to record their daily practice times in their notebooks. Please see my website for tips on successful practice.

I have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms laid out in the studio policy.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name and Date

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at erin@erinvanwinkle.com, or, in the case of an emergency, you can call or text me at (321) 270-3369.