

# Mary Vanderslice Piano LLC

## Piano Policy

Effective August, 2024, Terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

**Attendance:** The School Year is defined as September 1-May 31. Summer Session, June 1-August 31, is prorated to accommodate vacations and summer camps. Students should be punctual, arriving and departing on time, ready for lesson with all lesson books and clean hands. Students should plan to practice five or more days per week. One or two private student recitals for my students are typically offered per year.

**Tuition, Billing, Fees & Books:** Tuition, which includes all lesson days in a month, is due and payable in person by check or through QuickBooks invoicing (ACH transfer) in advance of the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson of the month. In-studio lesson tuition rates are as follows: \$26 per 30-minute lesson; \$39 per 45-minute lesson & \$52 per 60-minute lesson. Students are responsible for acquisition of all necessary books, including method books such as lesson, theory, technique, and repertoire books. There is a cost fee for returned checks. Lessons may be terminated for nonpayment, frequent late payment, excessive absences or lack of practice. There are no refunds.

**Vacations & Holidays:** Vacation breaks typically include various personal vacations, all of Thanksgiving week and Winter Break. Fall and Spring Break are prorated, as well as Summer Break (June-August) to fit active lifestyles. Continuity is important in piano lessons so, at a minimum, 6-7 lessons over the summer are highly recommended.

**Excused Absences & Makeups:** School-age students are expected to attend all available lesson weeks for the School Year, which is September 1 - May 31. Adult students are allowed some flexibility as to the number of lessons per each month, as well as makeup or credit options. All students and/or parents who exhibit any signs of sickness must stay home. Zoom lessons are always an option for ages 9 & up for any reason. An Invitation to Zoom link can be sent upon request. Four makeups for any reason are allowed during the school year for excused absences (cancellations with notification before lesson) subject to availability. Additional makeup or time off is available for family emergencies, extended serious illness, surgery, or serious injury or other medical related reasons that require an extended rehab/recovery time or isolation. Makeups are for excused absences (notify me in advance) of active students only and expire on August 31 of every year.

**Piano Requirement:** I encourage students to find a good quality acoustic piano, which can make a world of difference in interest, motivation, and love of the piano. Acoustic pianos need to have regular maintenance, such as tuning, which can cost at least \$130 per tuning. An alternative choice would be an 88-key weighted- key digital piano with at least 64 notes of polyphony. Contact me for more information.

**Practice, Parental Involvement & Success:** Every school age student should have parental (or other family) support and encouragement. A well-maintained instrument (with an appropriate bench or chair, music stand and lighting) in an area free of distractions and noise is necessary to help students focus and enjoy practicing. Quality, goal oriented, focused practice helps students reach goals, succeed and be motivated. Motivated students are more likely to become lifetime students of music. Create a practice habit by creating a schedule (I can help with this) or connecting it to something you always do, like eating a meal. Students are encouraged to play for family and friends; listen to many types of music; attend concerts and recitals; and read books about music. Students build up practice time as they learn more concepts, repertoire and technique. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.