Mary Vanderslice Piano LLC
Piano Policy

Effective September 1, 2026, 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 time 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. Other performance opportunities may also be available.

Tuition, Billing, Fees & Books: Tuition, which includes all lesson days in a month, is due and payable in person by check, cash or through Zelle ACH transfer, cash or personal check in advance of the 1st lesson of the month. In-studio lesson tuition rates are as follows: $27 per 30-minute lesson; $40.50 per 45-minute lesson & $54 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. Credits are given for teacher cancellation. Refunds are for special cases only.

Students: Students must be able to show respect for instruments, my studio, themselves and others. Students under 6 ½ must pass a readiness test, determined through an initial set of questions by phone conversation, then with teacher discretion, an in-person interview. Parents must attend lessons with students under 6 years of age.

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) Continuity is important in piano education for all ages.

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 month, as well as makeup options. All students and/or parents who exhibit any signs of sickness must stay home. Online or Face Time lessons are an option for ages 9 & up for any reason. Makeups for any reason are allowed for excused absences only (cancellations with notification before lesson). Makeups must be scheduled by contacting me. Additional makeups 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 31st of every year. Excessive absences may necessitate a closer look at changes in schedule, or possibly a break.

Piano Requirement: Students must have daily access to a piano before lessons can begin. 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. Another 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 adult support and encouragement. Students under 6 ½ & under should have a parent or adult attend lesson time. A well-maintained instrument with an appropriate bench or chair, music holder and lighting in an area free of distractions and noise is necessary to help students focus and enjoy practicing. Quality, goal oriented, focused practice five or more days per week helps students reach goals, succeed and be motivated. Continual lack of practice may need re-evaluation. 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 dinner. Students are encouraged to play for family and friends; listen to many types of music; attend concerts and recitals; and read books about music. Participation in student events, and/or recitals is a valuable goal providing social music making as well as a learning and motivational experience. Students build up practice time as they learn more concepts, repertoire and technique. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.