

TEACHING POLICY

MARK NEIWIRTH PIANO STUDIO

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Dear Parents:

I am happy to prospectively accept your son/daughter as a regular piano student. During the course of study, I will make every effort to make the experience enjoyable and worthwhile, with lasting benefits for the students. I insist that the students be allowed a certain time each day for practice at home, when they can work at the piano with a minimum of household noise and distractions.

I generally accept students on a three-month probationary period. At the end of this period, I will decide whether to continue lessons. It is important to understand that just as students choose their teachers, teachers choose their students, and I may decide to discontinue lessons at any time.

Each lesson will consist of a concentrated one-on-one session during which the student will be expected to present assignments and play technical studies and representative repertoire. Sight reading exercises, discussion of basic theory and fundamentals of music, and memorizing will take place occasionally. *Students must be on time and well prepared for every lesson.*

Supplies to purchase: 3-ring binder (hard cover) or iPad Pro
Metronome, or Metronome App (phone)

I will record in an online music journal what the student has played during the lesson, along with various notations, practice hints and definitions. As soon as possible after the lesson, the student will write a brief essay of one or more paragraphs stating what he/she learned during the lesson. At the next lesson, I will proofread what the student has written, correcting any misconceptions that may arise. Thus I can ensure that the student understands fully and accurately what has been discussed at every lesson. The student then has a running diary of lessons and can look back for a “refresher course” in the future.

Three Student Recitals are scheduled each year, in November, February and May. However, during the covid pandemic, these recitals have been rescheduled.

Parents are invited to sit in on any lesson. However, I prefer that parents of students over the age of 12 do not attend lessons more than once every six weeks. I believe that developing a one-on-one rapport with each student is of utmost value.

My fee is \$49 per 3/4 hr lesson, \$59 per 1 hour lesson. *All lessons must be paid one month in advance.* You will receive an invoice from me during the last week of each month stating the lesson charges for the following month, including miscellaneous expenses such as audition fees or music and materials I have purchased for the student. Please pay the amount billed on the statement, and I will make any necessary adjustments on the next month's statement. *My fee includes two one-week paid vacations per year.* I will inform you of such weeks on the invoice for the month during which I take each vacation week.

Make-up lessons usually will be arranged should I have to cancel. *If the student cancels, however, I will not be responsible for rescheduling a make-up lesson.* Any cancellation by the student should be made at least 24 hours in advance. If a regular lesson day falls on a national or religious holiday, or during severe weather conditions, that lesson time may or may not be rescheduled.