



Patti Jamieson
piano studio

STUDIO POLICY

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of teaching your child piano! To make our time the most productive, I have established the following policies for 2021-2022:

LESSONS

Private lessons are offered weekly. I try to work with each of my students in order to give them the most convenient lesson time. Please be as flexible as possible when informing me of your available times.

Lessons are available in-person and online. In person lessons will follow the recommendations of the CDC and state mandates. Currently everyone is asked to wear masks, vaccinated or not.

In-person lessons are 30, 45 and 60 minutes in length. Please wait in your car until my front door opens and the previous student is leaving. You can also text me when you arrive. I'll let you know when to come in. Sadly, there is no waiting room so I ask that you arrive on time and then are here to pick up your student at the end of the lesson.

Online lessons will be 30, 45 and 60 minutes in length. Please arrive early for your lesson. You will be able to wait in the Zoom Waiting Room until I am ready to begin your lesson. Have your books and a pencil ready available for each lesson. Every minute counts!

TUITION

Tuition is based on a 10-month period (September - June) divided into 10 monthly payments. The studio runs much like a private school - tuition remains the same each month and is based on enrollment, not attendance, reserving your child's exclusive lesson time throughout the piano year, whether he/she attends lessons or not. **Your student is guaranteed 34 lessons throughout the school year.**

Tuition may be paid bi-annually or in monthly payments. Tuition is due on the first lesson of the month. Families should expect a bi-yearly increase in tuition appropriate to cost of living increases and services offered.

Please remember, tuition *is not* an hourly fee. It covers my commitment to your child which is far greater than the actual time spent in a lesson. This commitment involves my own continuing education, trips to music stores, preparation and planning time for your child's individual lessons, my attendance at recitals, auditions, concerts, conventions, and workshops (whether in person or online).

MISSED LESSONS

As a courtesy to each student, I do try to accommodate schedule changes for legitimate reasons (such as illness, death, travel, etc). If your child is mildly sick OR another family member is sick, please let me know. We can jump on zoom easily and avoid a makeup lesson. Online lessons are also available if you have scheduling conflicts and just can't get a driver to bring your student to my

house (for example). I can easily change to online with just a few minutes notice. However, I do appreciate as much notice as possible.

My daily schedule is very full which causes the need to enforce a stricter make up policy. I will make every effort to make up missed lessons for valid reasons. I will offer scheduling options as I have availability. It will be up to the parent to make attendance at a makeup lesson a priority. I cannot make up lessons for last minute cancellations (for reasons such as sports, school dances, a last-minute family outing, homework). Missed lessons do not reduce tuition. Make up lessons will usually be held online.

SUPPLIES

Lesson assignments are available through an app – Tonara. Please download the app when I send you the link and encourage your student to use it when practicing.

New music can be ordered by the parent. I will send you a link when it time to make a purchase. If I have music available in my studio, I'll give it to the student and add it to your next invoice. I also use a lot of digital music. Please provide a binder for the digital music – helps to keep it all organized.

Throughout the year, there are various opportunities in which each student may choose to participate. These events, such as Music Olympics, Trio Festival and the Music Artistry Program, carry a small registration fee that will be added to tuition costs as they occur. These are not money-making events; the fees cover the costs of the event only.

I will also recommend websites and/or apps to enhance distance learning. Cost is usually minimal for these and the benefit is great.

CALENDAR

1. Lessons begin **Monday, September 13, 2021**. Lessons continue through **June 17, 2022**.
2. Please see the Studio Calendar to see the whole year at a glance. (Available on my website) My schedule loosely follows the Peninsula School District – at least for major holidays.
3. I will send out dates for major events throughout the year as soon as they are confirmed. You can also check the website (pattijamieson.com) for details.
4. Summer lessons, while not required, are encouraged.

PRACTICING

I like to emphasize the quality versus quantity of time practiced. If you treat piano lessons like an academic subject, students will progress and enjoy it more in the long run. However, in order to get good *quality* practice, a minimum of 20 minutes a day, five days a week is necessary for beginning students. (Less for beginning younger students.) As students advance and mature, this requirement will increase to 30 and 45 minutes per day.

Best time to practice.....within the first 24 hours after a lesson. Your student is most likely to retain what was covered in the lesson if reviewed within 24 hours. Then of course multiple sessions throughout the week will solidify the concepts taught. It may be only 10 to 20 minutes at times. But multiple, short periods of practice are more effective than only 1 long session each week.

One strategy that works well is to schedule your practice time. Set a specific hour of each day that you designate as practice time. It may vary from day to day. If it is on the calendar, it rarely gets forgotten. Students fall into a routine of remembering to practice on their own. And parents don't have to continually remind them to practice. Set a timer near the piano for the expected practice time. The student then knows when they have finished!

I have also found a valuable resource that I enthusiastically recommend: [*101 Practice Tips*](#) by Tracy Capps Selle (available on Amazon as a digital download and in hardcopy). You will find many ideas on how to encourage your student to practice!

IMPORTANT NOTE

Sometime during the course of taking piano lessons, your child may say something like, "I don't want to practice," or "I'm too tired to go to piano lessons," or "I don't want to go - I want to play with my friends," "I want to quit," etc... I actually said some of these to my mom when I was a young student. Just be aware that your child's interest will probably not be consistent; but to be successful, you will need to be consistent in your encouragement and commitment to music instruction. In most cases, simply acknowledge your child's comments, but then go on with your normal routine just as you would if you heard the comment, "I don't want to brush my teeth," "I don't want to stop playing with my toys," or "I don't want to go to bed."

INSTRUMENT

- Have your piano tuned yearly. Remember, I have actually seen and **heard** most of your pianos now! Some are in desperate need!
- If your child is starting on a keyboard it must be touch sensitive, have a pedal, and have 61 keys or more. Please be aware that this will only get them through the **first year**, maybe two. An electronic keyboard **severely limits** the technical and musical skills a student can practice at home. After that, you will want/need to invest in either a full size, 88 key, acoustic piano or a good digital piano with weighted keys to get the full benefit of piano lessons.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Consider purchasing a metronome or at a minimum have a metronome app readily available during practice.
- Fingernails must be kept short at all times.
- Parents – plan to attend a lesson once a quarter or more. Helps to keep you in touch with your child's progress, accomplishments and difficulties.
- Communication – text or email are preferred. Rarely is there time at the end of a lesson to have a discussion. But I value your input and insights.

**Thank you for the privilege of working with your child(ren).
It's going to be a great year!**

2020-2021 Parental Agreement to Terms

I have read the 2021-2022 Patti Jamieson Piano Studio Policy and agree to abide by all the terms and conditions in that document.

Agreed and consented to by:

Signature of financially responsible party

Date

Fall Enrollment Student Agreement of Terms

Please list names of children you wish to enroll for the fall semester. Next to their name, the student should sign their name indicating that they have read and understand the Studio Policy – understanding that the study of piano is a 3-way partnership between the parent, the teacher and the student.

Student Name

Signature

Age

Student Name

Signature

Age

Student Name

Signature

Age

Will you give your permission to list your name and phone number on this year's swap list? Please note that if you wish to participate in the swap list, you must allow your name & number to be used. Phone numbers will only be distributed to current students. (Circle) Yes No

Will you give your permission to allow photographs and/or videos to be posted on my website or studio Facebook page? No names will be attached to any photographs. (Circle) Yes No

Please update the following information for me. There are no changes

Phone - Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Student's email address(es): _____