

Piano Lesson Advice (4 Parents)

because involving parents makes the difference



Alan Cross

Hello Parents!

I am excited to begin teaching your child and am looking forward to spending my time helping your son or daughter become the best pianist they can be! The purpose of this form is to help you understand that your positive involvement in your child's endeavor is going to make all the difference. One of the biggest determining factors of my student's success has been whether or not their parents were helping them develop good practice habits at home. I am committed to helping your child succeed wildly in the area of music and understand that it is going to take clear expectations, encouragement, praise, and correction in order for me to help your child stick with it and develop the skills they need to become great musicians. Playing piano or any other instrument is a serious commitment that requires time. For the duration of your child's time with me I will be asking them to practice throughout the week at least five days a week for a set amount of time each day, but that's not the only thing worth talking about. Here are some ways we can work together;

Parental Involvement Pointers

- ➡ Help your son or daughter schedule their practice sessions. Plan out how much time they'll be spending and what days they'll do it. Try to help them practice at a time when their mind will be sharp so they will have an easier time concentrating. Help them stick to the plan and make up for missed times.
- ➡ Each week I will be writing in your child's assignment book what they are to be practicing. Please be sure they are practicing what I am assigning from week to week. Playing other pieces outside of what we are learning in piano class is fine and even encouraged, but I ask that my students practice what I ask them to practice for the amount of time I ask them to practice it. Continuous repeated failure to not practice from week to week is not acceptable. I will always seek to be patient, clear with my expectations, and willing to help my students achieve their personal best, but I must make it clear that continued failure to not practice is unacceptable and leads to less than favorable circumstances for the teacher and student.
- ➡ Except at the very beginning in some instances, my students will always have some form of scale, arpeggio, or other exercise with which they should begin their practice time. Good warm up routines help music learners develop exceptional facility, control, and effortlessness.
- ➡ It's not entirely about the length of time your child is practicing or the number of times they play their songs and exercises, but rather that they are practicing well and getting better at their pieces and exercises every time they sit down. Many students have a tendency to just play through their music carelessly without truly trying to get better. This attitude is harmful in many ways and is sure to drain the life out of their desire to play and to prevent improvement on the instrument. Please encourage your child to practice slowly and to focus on small passages at a time. Please make sure they understand what they are reading and that they are taking the time to play things correctly. Slow correct playing of small sections results in quick learning. It's much harder to go back and unlearn mistakes after they've been learned.
- ➡ Helping your child accomplish his or her dreams is a great privilege! I'd encourage you to use graciousness, wisdom, and love in encouraging, praising, and correcting them. All of us need breaks some time. All of us need help getting ourselves out of bed to do the right thing at other times. All of us need help developing character. All of us need to learn how to receive help. I pray that God would bless you as you seek to help your child develop his or her musical talents!

I have read this form and understand that my involvement plays a large part in my child's musical success. I am committed to helping my child achieve their musical dreams and ambitions in music.

Print Name

Signature

Date

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