

# 2016 - 2017 Piano Studio Policies of Elizabeth Marie Moss

Welcome students and parents! I am delighted to be teaching and look forward to this year. Please read the following policies so that we may have the best quality of lessons:

**Tuition:** Tuition is based on a monthly fee. Payment is required at the **first lesson of each month**. A check is preferable. Late payments will result in a \$10 fee.

<b>Group 30 min lesson</b>	<b>\$60</b> per month
<b>30 min lesson</b>	<b>\$80</b> per month
<b>45 min lesson</b>	<b>\$100</b> per month
<b>60 min lesson</b>	<b>\$160</b> per month

**Lessons:** Generally, one lesson per week will be given. Students are expected to arrive **before their lesson time and have all materials prepared**. Parents should attend each lesson with the student. It is very important that the parents or other children remain quiet during the lesson. Please **do not answer your cell phone** during the lesson or do anything else that might distract your child from his or her lesson. Please refrain from “teaching” the child. If your input or opinion regarding your child’s musicianship is needed, I will ask for it.

**Makeup Lessons:** Extra time given at lesson will be considered as makeup time. A skipped lesson will not be rescheduled. **No deductions will be made for missed lessons**. Please do not ask to reschedule your lesson time for other events such as but not limited to: going on outings with friends and family, sports games, play dates with friends. Some acceptable reasons for make up lessons are: medical appointments that can be scheduled at no other time, school programs, sickness, or family vacation. **Cancelled lessons will NOT result in a reduction of the monthly fee**. Please do not ask for a reduction if your student misses, regardless of whether a make-up lesson was given. Your monthly tuition is reserving your spot in my studio.

**Studio Class:** Every month a performance class will be held, which gives the students the opportunity to practice performing in a comfortable environment. **Attendance is mandatory**. This class is an opportunity for students to meet together, play for one another, and make friends at an informal gathering. Please see my website for important dates.

**Recitals:** There will be one recital at the end of each semester. Each student is expected

to pay a **\$20 recital fee** at the beginning of each school year. These are formal events. Students are expected to have their music up to performance level and memorized. Please dress formally. At the spring recital, awards will be announced for the academic year.

**Piano:** Students need an acoustic piano in good working condition to have the best quality of music lessons. Keyboards are not acceptable. Please make sure the student is sitting at the proper height at the piano. If the bench is too low, buy padding to be placed on top of the bench. Feet should not be dangling. A small stool may be used or old phone books wrapped in masking tape may be stacked under the student's feet. The piano should be tuned **at least** once a year, but preferably every six months. A piano is similar to a car: if you do not keep it maintained frequently its quality diminishes at a faster rate. Also, the student's musical ear may not develop properly if he or she is constantly hearing a piano out of tune.

**Parent Expectations:** You are a vital role in the progress of your child. Think of yourself as the "practice coach." Your child can best learn with your support, and constant interest in his or her musical progress. Please do not use practicing the piano as punishment. The piano in your home should be a place where your child can practice without interruption. It is your duty to make sure your child practices 5 days a week. Especially with beginners, parents play a vital role as they practice with their child. Please check the assignment book and directions written in the music to make sure the student has completed assignments before he or she returns to the next lesson.

**Student Expectations:** Come to your lesson with a good attitude and clean hands. Please do not chew gum or eat candy or bring toys to your lesson. It is your responsibility to complete all assignments before each lesson. Open your assignment book and read it before each practice session. Beginners are required to practice 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Intermediate students are required to practice 45 minutes, 5 days a week. Advanced students should practice 1 hour a day, 5 days a week. **If students fail to meet these practice requirements on a consistent basis, they will be asked to find another teacher.**

**Teacher Expectations:** My philosophy of teaching is based on one of love and nurturing. My goal is to help your child become a better pianist, musician, and ultimately a good person. I will be prepared, on time, and fully focused on your child when he or she attends lessons.

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Teacher Signature

## **Calendar of Events\* 2015 - 2016**

Sep 1\* Fall lessons begin  
Sep 7\* Labor Day - no lessons  
Oct 1\* Studio Class - 6:30  
Oct 29\* Spooky Studio Class - 6:30  
Dec 17\* Christmas Recital - 7:00  
Dec 21 - Jan 1\* Holiday Break  
Jan 5\* Winter Lessons Begin  
Feb 25\* Movie Recital Night - 6:30  
Mar 24\* Studio Class - 6:30  
April 21\* Duet Night - 6:30  
June 4\* Spring Recital - 6:30

### **Is my child ready for piano lessons?**

Some parents aren't sure when they should start sending their child to piano lessons. Children who are too young may not have the attention span and may not benefit from piano lessons. Children who are too old – well, there is no such thing as too old. OK, so when is the BEST time to start? To be honest, this depends greatly on the child. If you are thinking of enrolling

your child in piano lessons, run through the following questions first.

**1. Are YOU committed to it?**

Children naturally have a shorter attention span than adults. If your child is to get the most out of piano lessons, the parents must be committed to it 100%. You must set aside time for your child to practice, and be sure that your child adheres to the practice schedule. You must be committed to driving your child to practice every week, and footing all of the costs that result from that.

**2. Does my child know their ABCs / Can my child read?**

Although this is not a requirement, it makes reading music less of a stretch. They should be able to count and sound out words based on the letters of the alphabet. Your child will get the most out of piano lessons if they have this basic foundation of knowledge.

**3. Does my child demonstrate some manual dexterity?**

Observe your child at play. Notice whether he or she has the capability of fine movement (placing pieces in a puzzle, doing up buttons, etc). If they are starting to write or draw, this would be a good indication that they have the dexterity necessary to play the piano keys.

**4. Is my child interested in playing piano?**

Talk to your child about piano lessons and gauge their interest. You can make your child to go to piano lessons, but it will not be very rewarding for either of you if no one is having fun. Not to mention, it is very difficult to force your child to learn something they are not interested in. Make sure that learning the piano is something that interests your child.

**5. Will my child be able to sit through a half-hour lesson?**

30 minutes is a standard duration for a beginner piano lesson. Does your child have the attention span to sit through an entire half hour? Many piano teachers who are used to working with young children will have techniques to keep the child engaged for the entire half hour. This can include fun activities such as marching and clapping, jumping up and down to a beat, or singing.

Well, if you made it through all of these questions, you can gauge for yourself whether your child (and your family) is ready for piano lessons.

Generally, children around the age of 6-7 are in a good position to make the most of piano lessons.