

The Signs of Sound Piano Studio

Studio Policy

Attendance: I look forward to seeing you each week and discovering music together! Students are expected to commit for a semester (Fall or Spring) of piano lessons. They should arrive on time, bring all their materials, and trim their nails, as to help form an excellent hand shape for playing. The studio calendar follows the Knox County calendar, which means the studio will take the same breaks as the Knox County schedule.

Piano at Home: A tuned acoustic piano allows the student to thrive and enjoy the power and colors that the piano can make. There are many free or very inexpensive pianos on Facebook Marketplace which are waiting for a home. Please let me know if you would like me to help you in this search. The next best choice is a full sized 88-key electric keyboard with weighted keys and a pedal. I would be honored to help you find a piano that fits your family's needs.

Practice: Students should touch the piano as often as they can throughout the week, so as to grow in their musical journey. Sometimes 15 minutes of practice can be better and more focused than 30, etc. Use whatever time you do have! When a student does not practice at home, he or she will begin to feel discouraged and frustrated. Therefore, I give all different types of practice strategies and games, so that the student can feel confident and comfortable exploring the songs at home.

Parent participation: Parents are asked to encourage students and be active participants during piano practice at home. Ask questions. Get curious about your child's pieces. Let them teach you. This will help them feel less defensive and more supported!

Make a plan with your student about the timing for practice at least 4-5 times a week. Growth will not occur if the student only shows up at the studio each week. Growth occurs little by little at home, with our parents and teacher team to cheer them on!

A parent may attend the lessons, if they would like, to be more equipped to encourage practice at home. This can be extremely helpful for younger students. The teacher reserves the right to ask a parent not to attend if the parent's presence alters the quality of the lesson.

Piano Parties: I offer group workshops/piano parties bimonthly, so that we can enjoy musical games, duets, composing, music history, and more with the student's peers! These replace the lesson for that week. The parties are incredibly motivating and help us form a piano community. More information will be in our communities' chat.

Recitals: Recitals are a great way for the students to share their musical progress and enjoyment with their friends, family, and even those they have not met. I often arrange recitals at local senior centers or nursing homes.

Make-up Lessons: There are no make-up lessons; however, if you need to miss the lesson due to illness, I will offer an online lesson during your time slot. Or if you would prefer, you can send me a video of a piece or pieces you have been practicing that week and I will send you a feedback video during your scheduled lesson time. If you know a family in the studio, you can also arrange a swap with the other student's lesson. Just let me know, so I know which student to expect.

Teacher Absences: In the case of my illness, I will move lessons online.

Summer Lessons: 6 summer sessions (out of 8 weeks) are required during the summer to hold a spot for the fall semester. I will work around your schedule and vacations to find the best fit for everyone. I will also host a summer music camp for one week. More details will follow in texts/google forms as the summer draws near.

Tuition Payment: You may pay via paypal (@CheriePomeroy), Venmo (@cheriepomeroy), Zelle, cash, or check. Please submit your payment no later than the 5th of the month. After the 5th, a late fee of 30 dollars will be added to the tuition. Tuition will be slightly increased to \$120 per month. Some months will have 3, 4, and 5 lessons, depending on the month and holidays. Therefore, each month will be the same tuition charge.

Lesson Termination: If you need to terminate lessons for whatever reason, you will need to give one-month notice. Thank you for your understanding. Students may be asked to discontinue lessons at the end of the semester, if they have had excessive absences or unprepared lessons, at the discretion of the teacher. Lessons may also be terminated for unpaid tuition. If your family is going through a financial crisis, though, please reach out and we can figure something out together!

Communication: Parents can call, email, text, or schedule an appointment with me if they have questions or concerns. My number is 865-203-7032 and my email address is signsofsoundps@gmail.com. I welcome any parental communication and feedback!

Media Release: The Signs of Sound Piano Studio may use photographs/videos of your student (for the website, social media for the studio or marketing), but only with the parent's and student's permission.

Loss or Injury: The Signs of Sound Piano Studio is not responsible for any loss or injury incurred while participating in the program. Signature on this registration form acknowledges that The Signs of Sound Piano Studio is released from all liability, including, but not limited to liability resulting from anyone's negligence. Signature also constitutes acknowledgement that the parent agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Signs of Sound Piano Studio from any liability, costs or claims, related either directly or indirectly to participation at the Signs of Sound Piano Studio program, including legal or medical expenses incurred for the participant's benefit.

I have read this document and agree to a full semester of piano lessons at the Signs of Sound Piano Studio.

Parent Signature.....

Student Signature

I look forward to our musical adventure together!