



Studio Policy for Olympic Music School

My Responsibilities

I will do my best to treat every student as an individual, providing a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere for learning.

Student & Family Responsibilities

Students agree to arrive at each lesson punctually, well-prepared, and with all of their assignment books and music. To make good progress, daily quality practice is necessary. I want you to completely understand every assignment; please ask questions. Practice makes permanent, but good practice makes for good and reliable playing.

If something is happening at home or school that is affecting your child please let me know. Please err on the side of letting me know more so I can be sensitive to the needs of your child.

Parents need to supervise their children's practice time. Children are never motivated 100% of the time, as you know! See the next page for your child's specific requirements. I will not retain students who do not maintain a regular practice schedule.

Performance Opportunities and Requirements

All students are expected to participate in scheduled performance classes and studio recitals, and when recommended, Washington State Music Teachers Association auditions and adjudications. Selected students may also have the opportunity to perform in competitive events. Recitals and auditions serve the purpose of providing students motivation towards defined goals. Performances can stimulate and motivate a student and contribute to feelings of accomplishment and self-confidence.

Masterclasses—Required

Sometimes playing the piano can be a little lonesome. It's wonderful to play an instrument that sounds so good by itself, but opportunities to play with and for others are not as plentiful as with other instruments. To help make up for this, and because it's just plain fun, we have piano master classes five - seven times during the school year.

This is a chance for students to play for one another in a relaxed setting away from parents!

WSMTA Adjudications—Required

Washington State Music Teachers Association sponsors this educational event which is usually held around the first of March. Each student performs two memorized pieces of contrasting style for a qualified adjudicator who will give them a personal review which includes oral comments, a written evaluation, and a certificate of participation.

Cancellation Policy

Any lesson that I have to cancel will be made up or a credit will be given. No credit will be provided for students who miss lessons for any reason. Please do not come if you are sick. I will offer one makeup lesson day approximately every two months on the last Friday of the month.

Try to choose a lesson time in which you feel confident. Please understand that the tuition you pay reserves an exclusive weekly time in my schedule for your child. Unlike a doctor or a hairdresser, I cannot resell that time nor can I create extra teaching time in which to give lessons.

Other—Encouraged, but not required

Students may be encouraged to participate in other local and state-wide events such as Solo and Ensemble, Port Angeles Symphony competitions, Monday Musicale Scholarship competitions, WSMTA composition competitions, etc.

Recital, Adjudication, and Competition Etiquette

Students are encouraged to observe proper performance and audience etiquette. For all performances, please arrive 5—10 minutes early and plan to stay for the entire program. If you absolutely must leave before the end of a recital, please let the teacher know well in advance, sit near the exit, and wait for a performer to finish before leaving. Please do not bring babies or young children who cannot sit through the entire program quietly.

Appropriate clothing

- Boys: Dress slacks (no jeans), dress shirt.
- Girls: Knee-length or longer skirt or dress, dress slacks are fine
- For both: Appropriate shoes close-toed shoes or tight-fitting sandals.
No flip-flops, tennis shoes, or clogs.

Competitions:

Recording may or may not be allowed. Please be respectful and check on the rules ahead of time.

Miscellaneous

Fingernails - In order to maintain a proper hand position (i.e. one that will prevent injuries), short fingernails are an absolute must.

Photocopies - Original music must be used for all performances and other musical events.

Phone Calls – I do not answer the phone during lessons. Messages may be left on the voice mail and calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Piano Care - Your piano should be placed in a room free of distractions, but not too isolated. Check for adequate lighting from the student's level! Make sure your child is provided a bench of the appropriate height. Please be sure there are no mechanical problems with the keys or pedals and maintain a regular (once per year absolute minimum, twice per year is best) tuning schedule. Please ask if you need the name of a good piano technician.

Bad Weather - Please check with me at 360-461-0904 in case of heavy snow. If you can't get to the school, then chances are that I can't, either! These lessons can take place via Skype, or by makeup lessons.

Ending Lessons - It is inevitable that lessons will end at some point, hopefully far in the future! As a courtesy, four weeks' notice is requested to end lessons at Olympic Music School.