

# Jessica Olson Piano Studio

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## Studio Policy

Thank you for studying piano with me! I am so grateful for the opportunity to share my love of music with you!

### **Weekly Lessons:**

Weekly lessons are held from the second full week in September until the last full week in May. A complete calendar of lessons and events will be provided at the beginning of each school year. Thirty minute lessons are recommended for young beginners, and 45-minute lessons will be required for nearly all students in their second year of study and beyond as scheduling allows. I may recommend additional increases in time as students advance based on their personal goals.

### **Group Classes:**

Group classes are typically held several times per school year on Saturday mornings. These casual classes are included in tuition fees. **In order for students to reap the benefits of group classes, attendance is important and will be considered mandatory.**

### **Tuition Policy:**

Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year includes all individual weekly lessons on the studio calendar and all group classes. Students may choose to finance the total cost of the annual tuition fee into two semester payments due in September and January, or nine monthly payments due at the first lesson of every month. **Because semester and monthly tuition payments are considered a financing option, payments are equal regardless of the number of lessons received during the month.**

If required, an invoice containing a \$1.50 late fee will be emailed after the second lesson of the month. **Unused tuition fees are non-refundable so please pre-pay only for lessons you know you will use.** Online payments may be made by clicking the link located inside each emailed invoice or from the payment portal located in the parent resources section of the studio website. A 3% credit card fee will be automatically added to online payments.

**Due to the studio's lengthy waiting list, students who wish to take a break or delay the start of lessons will be required to pay their usual tuition fee during the break if they wish to hold their place.** If they choose to make their slot

available to another student during their break in study, they will go back on the waiting list for the next available opening.

Summer lessons are available in pre-paid blocks of 4, 6, or 8 lessons in June, July, and August, and a special project or exploratory unit is often offered. Scheduling is done week by week to allow for flexible vacation and camp schedules.

**Absence Policy:**

Because illness or scheduling conflicts are inevitable, a number of free lessons are built into the schedule. As a result, no credits or make up lessons will be offered. If students attend every calendared lesson for the school year, they will receive several lessons at no charge!

If an absence occurs right before an important performance, I may ask the student to attend a make up lesson to prepare at my discretion. While I do my best to accommodate unforeseen conflicts in students' schedules and try to be as flexible as possible, I ask that families plan ahead when setting up their lesson time for the school year since time changes are usually not possible.

**Home Practice:**

Piano lessons are different from sports and other extra-curricular activities in that a significant part of a student's musical growth occurs outside of lesson time. For this reason, **regular home practice is essential for progress and will be expected.**

The length of daily practice required varies between students and will be discussed with each student and their parents based on their individual needs. Most students will be assigned regular theory, listening, and composing assignments in addition to repertoire pieces. A significant part of our weekly lesson will be devoted to showing students how and what to work on at home, and detailed practice instructions are sent home weekly.

Parents are encouraged to expose students to as many live musical performances as possible, and parental supervision and encouragement are essential for success!

**Materials and Fees:**

Each student will need: a spiral bound notebook; a small 3-ring binder; a set of highlighters for use at home; pencils, crayons and colored pencils for use at home; a bag for transporting books and materials; a home instrument in good repair; and online access for completing listening and other assignments on Google classroom.

Please bring all music books and worksheets, your notebook, and your binder to each lesson. The binder will be used to organize practice instructions, worksheets, and other lesson materials.

All students will need a piano for home practice. **Home instruments need to be well tuned with weighted keys, full keyboard size, and working pedals.** A good quality digital piano can be a serviceable instrument for beginners, as long as it mimics the touch of a quality acoustic piano. Students who have advanced to the intermediate level and beyond should plan to acquire a quality acoustic instrument.

**Each family is required to pay a non-refundable \$50.00 deposit at enrollment which will be used to cover the cost of materials and event fees.** At the end of each school year the deposit account must be brought up to the \$50.00 level to serve as confirmation of re-enrollment for the following year.

**Performances:**

Students in my studio have many opportunities to perform at school functions, group classes, recitals, fundraisers, festivals, and on our studio YouTube channel.

Most students will be asked to participate in at least one piano festival and one recital each year. Most of these events require performing from memory, and modest, dressy attire is required. With parental consent, I regularly record polished pieces for the studio YouTube channel, website, and Facebook page. Exceptionally prepared students may receive the honor of being selected to participate in Southwest Montana Music Teachers Association recitals and festivals, the Montana State Music Teachers Association Fall Festival, or MTNA competitions.

I am aware that performing is overwhelming for some students. Discretion will be used in requiring participation in formal recitals and festivals.