

Jessica Olson Piano Studio

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Studio Policy

Thank you for studying with me! I feel honored by the opportunity to share my love of the piano with you and your family. Below you will find important information about studio operations and policies.

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.

Piano Parties:

Small group piano parties composed of students of similar ages and levels will be held several times per year on Saturdays as Covid-19 protocols allow. These fun events are always included in tuition fees. **Because group sizes are small, in order for students to reap the benefits of group learning, attendance of all students in each group is very important.** Please reserve these dates on your calendar at the beginning of the school year.

Tuition Policy:

Tuition for the 2021-2022 school year includes all individual weekly lessons on the studio calendar, piano parties, and studio recitals. 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 scheduled during the month.**

Because of the high cost of credit card processing, payment by check is preferred. Please make checks payable to Jessica Olson. Invoices will be sent by email only if payment has not been made by the 15th of each month, and a late fee of \$1.50 will apply. **Unused tuition fees are non-refundable so please pre-pay only for lessons you know you will use.**

Due to the studio's lengthy waiting list, students who wish to take a break or delay the start of lessons due to sports or other extracurriculars will be

required to pay their usual tuition fee during the break if they wish to hold their place. If you choose to make your slot available to another student during your break in study, you will be placed back on the waiting list for the next available studio 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, five free lessons have been built into the tuition schedule. As a result, no credits or make up lessons will be offered. If students attend every scheduled weekly lesson for the school year, they will receive these lessons at no charge! 😊

If an unavoidable 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 may not always be possible.

Home Playing:

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, **piano playing at home is essential for progress and will be expected.**

The length of daily music making that I encourage varies between students and will be discussed with each student and their parents based on their level of achievement and individual needs. Most students will be asked to regularly complete theory pages, engage in listening, and compose their own pieces in addition to the repertoire we're learning. Part of our weekly lesson will be devoted to showing students how and what to play at home, and detailed instructions are emailed out after each lesson.

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

Materials and Fees:

Prior to starting lessons, each student will need: access to email (their own or a parent's) for receiving lesson notes; a spiral notebook; a 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 and theory books, your notebook, and your binder to each lesson. The binder will be used to organize lesson notes, worksheets, and printed digital sheet music.

All students will need a piano for home practice. **Home instruments should 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 late intermediate level and beyond should plan to acquire a quality acoustic instrument.

Each family is required to pay a non-refundable \$60.00 deposit at enrollment which will be used to cover the cost of materials and any applicable festival fees. At the end of each school year the deposit account must be brought up to the \$60.00 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. Some 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 to celebrate growth and success! 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. Although performances can be great challenges for overcoming personal limitations and developing courage, discretion will always be used in requiring student participation in public performances.

Thanks so much for choosing to be part of my studio family! Open communication is important to me, so please feel free to reach out at any time with questions or concerns.

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