

Jessica Olson Piano Studio

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Studio Policy Addendum 2020-2021

During unprecedented times, music lessons become unprecedented as well! The following special policies and procedures will apply during the 2020-2021 school year. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

In-Person vs. Online Lessons:

I anticipate that the format of weekly lessons will be flexible this year due to the evolving public health situation in Gallatin County. I anticipate offering the choice of in-person or online lessons when possible, depending on the prevalence of local cases and parent preferences. The same attendance policies, fees, and requirements will apply to students studying in-person and online.

Because I live in a multi-generational household, I reserve the right to make the final decision on whether in-person lessons are safe for my family and move to an online format at any time with any student.

Group Classes and Recitals:

Group classes will not be held this year. They will either be replaced with individual lessons or other creative projects. It is unlikely that in-person recitals or festivals will be held during the course of the year, but I hope to offer some fun alternative performance opportunities.

Exposure Policy:

When and if in-person lessons are possible, students who have traveled outside Gallatin County, or have hosted guests from outside Gallatin County, are asked to take lessons online for a period of 14 days. If anyone in your household is notified by the health department that they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19, please make arrangements to study online for a period of 14 days. Any student who feels ill or is running a fever is asked to refrain from attending in-person lessons for a period of 14 days, regardless of the nature of the illness.

Requirements for In-Person Lessons:

When and if in-person lessons are possible:

- Students, parents, and siblings over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask at all times, including while entering and exiting my home. (I will have a limited number of disposable masks available for unforeseen circumstances.) This policy will remain in place for the duration of the pandemic, regardless of any health department or government mandate or its repeal. Hand sanitizer will be available next to the front door, and everyone is asked to sanitize their hands upon entry and exit.
- Students will be asked to refrain from entering the house until they see a green sign on the front door indicating that the prior student has left and that disinfection has taken place.
- Students are asked to minimize the number of additional people in the studio this year where possible, including grandparents, friends, and siblings. (I maintain an open door, no-knock policy for parents and guardians.)
- Students are asked, when possible, to take care of personal needs, such as using the restroom or drinking water, before they arrive for their lesson. The restroom and non-studio areas of my home will be considered off limits for this year except in the case of unavoidable emergencies.

Sanitization Procedures:

When and if in-person lessons are possible, the following sanitization measures will be taken in the studio:

- I will wear a mask at all times when interacting with students and sanitize my hands frequently. I will not teach in-person when I have traveled outside of Gallatin County, have a fever, or feel ill, regardless of the nature of the illness.
- The front door handle, piano keys, and all frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected between students.
- I will minimize the amount of time spent in close contact with students (within 6 feet) to the greatest extent possible, with the understanding that studio space is limited and interactions are somewhat unpredictable.
- Wherever possible, I will ask students to handle their own materials and belongings.

Technology Requirements for Online Lessons:

Because the effective teaching of music depends greatly on the ability to hear accurately, the technology needed to take effective online piano lessons may vary

slightly from the requirements for other kinds of learning. The following items are essential ingredients in successful online piano lessons:

- A high speed internet connection capable of at least 10Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload. (You can check your internet speed at speedtest.net.) To minimize lag and freezing, other household members should refrain from streaming video or audio, or using other bandwidth intensive applications during lesson time.
- A device with high quality microphone, camera, and speakers. (Be sure it's charged before lesson time!)
- A Skype account. Facetime, Google Duo, Zoom, and other platforms are workable for lessons that require talking but have substandard audio quality for piano lessons. I am happy to work with whatever platform students have, but Skype has been the best and most reliable for accurate sound.
- An angle that allows me to see a student's face and hands. Usually a profile view works best.
- A frequently-checked email address for the inevitable flood of lesson notes that you will receive!

I am always happy to advise, assist, or work with whatever setup allows your student to successfully continue their piano study. If you are struggling to set up your technology in a workable way, please reach out!

Absences or Dropped Calls:

I will always initiate video calls for online lessons. If I am having trouble connecting, I will always try to call or text a parent to troubleshoot the issue. If I receive no response, and if the student has not picked up after repeated attempts, I will assume the lesson has been forfeited.

My regular no makeup policy will apply for missed online lessons, with the exception of technical difficulties that prevent our lesson from taking place. I will do my best to reschedule these sessions at a workable time.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I am always happy to hear how I can best meet your needs and support your student, both musically and personally, during a time when so much is distant and disconnected. My connection to them means as much to me as (I hope) mine does to them!