



# Studio Policies

Valerie Johnson, *Teacher*  
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[www.JoyfulMusicLessons.weebly.com](http://www.JoyfulMusicLessons.weebly.com)

Parent / child Piano lessons for students age 4-6  
Individual piano & recorder lessons for ages 6 and up through adult  
Individual flute & wind instrument lessons for ages 8 and up through adult

## Lesson Etiquette

- ♪ Please be a few minutes early so lessons may begin at the scheduled time. Students who arrive late for their lessons will not be given extra lesson time.
- ♪ If Mrs. Johnson is finishing a previous lesson, please wait outside (in nice weather) or you are invited to enter and take a seat in the hallway or living room.
- ♪ I will encourage your child to follow these simple rules at piano lessons:
  - If you bring a cell phone, turn it OFF when you enter the studio.
  - During your lesson, play only when asked to play. Please do not play while the teacher is talking and instructing.
  - Be respectful of the instrument, materials, and our time together.

## Parent Observation of Lessons

- ♪ For ages 4-6, parents are required to attend lessons. By doing so, you learn how to work with your child at home and can reinforce instruction methods.
- ♪ Parents of older students are welcome to sit and wait during lessons as well, but it is not required. Sitting in, at least every now and then, helps parents know what we are working on and what they should be listening for, and encouraging at home.

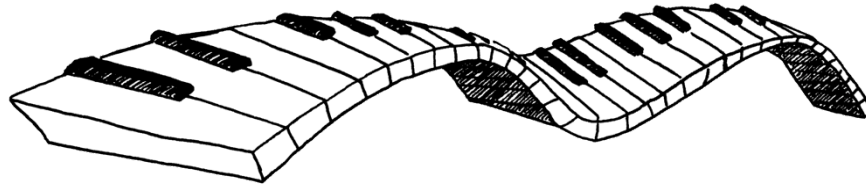
## Music Fee & Lesson Payment

- ♪ Lessons cost \$22 per 30 minutes or \$40 for 60 minutes. Lessons are expected to be paid either a full month or season in advance – due at the time of the first lesson of that month or season.
- ♪ Monthly statements and receipts may be issued upon request.
- ♪ A non-refundable “Music Fee” for books is required annually (every 12 months). This covers the cost books, a Practice Journal, supplemental music, materials, and recital music.
- ♪ Please make checks payable to Valerie Johnson or pay online.



## Bringing Friends to Lessons...

- ♪ ...is not a good idea. Your child’s lesson time is valuable. To make the best use of your child’s brief lesson time, I request that your child refrain from bringing friends to lessons.
- ♪ Besides, our studio space is not that big.



## Music Book Bag

- ♫ I encourage students to have a book bag dedicated for their lesson books. This may help eliminate the misplacement and loss of music and should reduce damage to books.

## Practice

- ♫ Students will need access to an instrument for daily practicing.
- ♫ Students are encouraged to practice 15-20 minutes 5 times a week. This is an “ideal” amount and I reward students for reaching the 100+ minutes of practice time in a week.
  - Every student receives a Practice Journal in which the teacher records what they should be working on each week. Parents should help record practice times and be aware of what their student is working on.
  - Please help your student record these times as accurately as possible. Parents are asked to initial recorded practice times each week. *These times are a help to Mrs. Johnson in evaluating difficulty and performance of the pieces assigned and allow her to get a better picture of what will help the student learn the instrument.*
- ♫ I realize that some weeks, with other extra-curriculars and family commitments, this may not be possible.
- ♫ However, if students regularly are not practicing and able to perform their practice pieces well at lessons, it may become a reason to discontinue lessons. Students will only progress if they are practicing regularly at home.

## Theory and Composition

- ♫ As a part of learning to play an instrument, students will learn music theory and composition. Writing their own music and learning how music is composed offers a greater appreciation and understanding of what they are playing as well as an opportunity for creativity.
- ♫ Most weeks they will receive a theory assignment that needs to be completed.
- ♫ Composition assignments will be less regular and in varying forms depending upon the level of the student.

## Lesson Incentives

- ♫ As a fun encouragement, Mrs. Johnson offers rewards for good lesson performances & practicing.
- ♫ Criteria for a “good” lesson performance is:
  - ...the student is prepared for their lesson, has all their books and materials.
  - ... the student has practiced and plays the pieces with knowledge and confidence.
  - ...theory and composition activities are completed.



## Performances / Recital

- ♫ The opportunity to perform is a fun and important part of playing an instrument. Mrs. Johnson arranges a few opportunities for students to perform each year.
  - Most years include a Christmas Concert and a May Recital.

- Performance opportunities will be based upon student readiness and comfort.
- Recitals may be large or small, formal or informal. Details will be made available when appropriate. (They vary from year to year.)
- Students are strongly encouraged to participate, but may be excused for appropriate reasons.

## *Cancellation / Missed Lesson Policy*

- ♪ I will hold your lesson time specifically for you.
- ♪ I cannot give makeup lessons due to not practicing, forgetting your lesson, scheduling other appointments, or because there is something else you'd rather do than come to your lesson.
- ♪ Lessons that are missed due to illness or planned absences/family vacations may be made up where possible if Mrs. Johnson is notified before the lesson.
- ♪ "No shows" will not be credited.
- ♪ If a lesson is cancelled due to Mrs. Johnson's schedule, it will be refunded or rescheduled.

## *Dismissal*

- ♪ Failure to pay tuition on time, never practicing, consistently disregarding studio policies, or having an uncooperative attitude are all reasons for which a student may be asked to discontinue lessons.



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Call or e-mail Mrs. Johnson if you have any questions about lessons or instruments.

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