

Private Music Lessons

I will be accepting a limited number of students at St. Edward Catholic School for private music lessons during the 2020-2021 school year. Lessons will start the third week of school. Please contact me either at the open house, through the website or by phone or email, to schedule your student.

Lessons will be 25 -30 minutes and coordinate with the school schedule.

Tuition will be \$15.00 per lesson. Tuition should be paid at the end of the month. This seems to be simpler than paying in advance and giving credit for missed lessons.

Music - Students will be expected to purchase the music lesson and theory books as required by the teacher. If students participate in festivals and competitions they may also need to purchase sheet music. Students are encouraged to bring any popular music they would like to learn to their lessons. As long as it is not too hard for them, we can incorporate it into the lesson.

Practice – Students are expected to practice their entire assignment every day, which may take from 20 to 60 minutes depending on their level. It is not necessary that all the practice time be completed all at once. Particularly for early level students, three ten-minute practice periods are just as effective as one 30-minute period. Early primary level students at first have very short assignments and may not take even 20 minutes to go through their assignment. A general rule is to practice every piece three times every day.

Lesson visitations - Parents are certainly welcome to observe their children's lessons at any time. Please follow St. Edward's rules for visiting school.

Conferences - Please feel free to call me or arrange a time to meet to discuss your child's lessons and progress. I would like to talk to you at parent-teacher conferences if you can work me in. I will let you know if your child is having difficulty or if he or she is not practicing much. You can help by checking assignment sheets to see how much your child is actually practicing.

Performances -Students will be expected to perform at a spring recital. I tentatively plan to schedule this recital before or after the school spring recital. All students will be expected to participate.

Do's and don'ts –

- Do tell your child you like what they are playing. Saying "Oh I love listening to you play that song" means more and is more believable to him/her than "that was good."
- Don't make him/her fight with the TV for practice time.
- Do establish a consistent time for him/her to practice.
- Do think before telling him/her to quit practicing because you have a headache, etc. Ask him/her to practice pianissimo instead.
- Do help him/her to get in the habit of practicing whenever he/she has "downtime". Even 5 minutes is a help and better than just sitting around waiting or going online. I had one student who practiced every morning for 10-15 minutes while waiting for the bus.
- Do consider relating computer - cell phone – TV time to practice time.

I also had children taking piano lessons and I do understand the challenges. My grown daughter now tells me she wishes I had made her practice more.

Katherine Rybinski

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