

Alison Drat Piano Studio

Studio Policy 2020-2021

Studio Purpose

- ❖ To serve as an enriched learning environment where students can experience musical growth
- ❖ To develop musicianship, performing skills, and a theoretical understanding of music
- ❖ To foster creativity and self-expression
- ❖ To encourage the strive for excellence in music and all areas of life
- ❖ To promote music as a way in which we can worship God

Teaching Philosophy

❖ **Music is valuable.**

I believe music is valuable and can have an impact on every student. Studying music helps develop character traits of discipline, diligence, and perseverance. It provides an emotional outlet, and it is a gift that can be shared with others. Music is an avenue through which we can praise and worship God.

❖ **Each student is unique and deserves individualized instruction.**

As I teach, I approach each student as a unique individual. I seek to find teaching strategies that align with each student's learning style and personality. I consider student goals and interests when selecting repertoire and planning lesson activities.

❖ **Lesson curriculum focuses on the development of well-rounded musicianship.**

I incorporate a variety of musical activities in lessons so that students learn how to read, play, understand, and create music. The development of a healthy technique and music reading skills enables students to enjoy making music for a lifetime. Incorporating activities in the areas of music theory, music history, and ear training helps students gain a stronger understanding of music. Students develop musical creativity through improvisation and composition.

Private Lessons

Students will participate in weekly private lessons. Lessons are available for preschoolers, school-aged students, and adults. Lessons are offered in 30, 45, or 60-minute segments depending on age and level. Students will participate in a variety of activities during lessons with the goal of developing well-rounded musicianship. Effective practicing strategies are modeled and explored so that students learn how to practice successfully.

Group Classes

Group classes provide an opportunity for students to perform for each other and learn alongside their peers. Since lessons are primarily a solo endeavor, group classes help to promote a sense of teamwork in the studio. One group class will be held each semester.

Summer Lessons

Summer lessons are offered on a flexible schedule. Since taking lessons during the summer is important for continued musical growth, registering for at least 5 summer lessons will be required to hold a student's spot in the studio for the fall of 2021. Summer lesson information will be sent out in April.

Lesson Procedures

Students are encouraged to arrive on time for lessons and come prepared with all books and materials. They should bring all of their books to every lesson, even if an assignment was not given in a specific book the previous week. When dropping off students for lessons, please either walk them to the door or wait in the driveway until they have entered the house. Parents are welcome to park in the driveway and are always invited to sit in on lessons. When siblings have lessons back to back, parents may drop off both children at the same time as long as they will not be a distraction to each other. They can bring a book or other quiet activity to do while they are waiting for their lesson time.

Books and Materials

New students will receive a 3-ring notebook with dividers. We will add handouts and worksheets to the notebook throughout the year. Students must have an acoustic piano or digital keyboard for practicing purposes. A metronome (or metronome app) is highly encouraged. Additional materials may include a lesson book, theory book, flash cards, Christmas music, and solo repertoire. Method books and solo repertoire are chosen specifically for each student based on learning style and individual interests. Books purchased for students will be included on the monthly tuition statement. There are times when I may lend books to students. Borrowed materials must be returned in good condition at the conclusion of their use. If borrowed materials are not returned, students will be charged for the replacement of the items.

Technology

Technology is incorporated in lessons to enhance student learning and promote practicing. Students will have opportunities to use various music apps on the iPad that review concepts they are learning, such as note reading and rhythm. Apps may be used to create original compositions or to record a performance so that students can provide their own feedback. Students may use an accompaniment CD that corresponds with their lesson book. Technology use is specific to each student and will be shared with parents so that it can be incorporated into home practice if desired.

Practicing

Consistent diligent practicing is essential to musical development. Suggested practicing length and frequency will be based on the level and individual needs of each student. Practicing goals and strategies will be discussed during the lesson and recorded in the student's lesson notebook. Parental support and encouragement are a tremendous help especially for young students. It may be beneficial to set aside a specific time each day for practicing so that it develops into a routine. My goal is to make practicing a positive experience for students by assigning activities and pieces that they enjoy. Additionally, students will earn prizes and awards throughout the year based on

practicing and lesson preparation. To promote accountability, students will record their practicing in their notebook.

Performance Opportunities

Developing performing skills is an important aspect of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to perform for family members and friends from the very first lesson. Performing strategies are discussed in private lessons and group classes. We will have a Christmas Recital in December and Spring Studio Recital in May at Schmitt Music in Overland Park. Students may be invited to participate in additional performances and festivals throughout the year that are sponsored by the Kansas City Music Teachers Association.

Calendar

Please refer to the **Studio Calendar 2020-2021** for group classes, recitals, and other important dates. A Thanksgiving Break, Christmas Break, Spring Break, and additional holidays will be observed.

Tuition and Payment Schedule

Private lesson tuition is \$24 per 30-minute lesson, \$36 per 45-minute lesson, and \$48 per 60-minute lesson. The total tuition for the year (fall 2020-spring 2021) has been calculated and then divided into nine equal monthly payments. Monthly tuition has been rounded up to the nearest dollar. The monthly tuition breakdown is as follows:

| Lesson Length | Number of Private Lessons | Tuition Rate | Total Tuition | Monthly Tuition |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 30 Minutes | 31 | \$24 | \$744 | \$83 |
| 45 Minutes | 31 | \$36 | \$1,116 | \$124 |
| 60 Minutes | 31 | \$48 | \$1,488 | \$166 |

Payment is due at the first lesson of each month in September through May. Tuition payment may be made in cash or check payable to Alison Drat. Venmo is also an option. If a student is absent for a lesson when tuition is due, payment may be mailed to 5521 W 98th PL, Overland Park, KS 66207. A late fee of \$5.00 will be added if payment is not received by the second lesson of the month. An additional \$5.00 will be added each week that payment is not received, up to \$20.00. If tuition remains unpaid without explanation, the student may lose his or her spot in the studio. Please contact me if you have extenuating circumstances preventing tuition payment. Tuition rates may be adjusted annually. Any tuition changes will be included in the studio policy and will occur at the start of lessons in August.

Illness Policy

Students should be fever free for 24 hours before coming to a lesson. If your child has stayed home from school due to sickness, please strongly consider keeping him or her home from the lesson. (*See COVID-19 Protocol for additional information.*)

Missed Lessons

If a student needs to miss a lesson for any reason, advance notification should be given. Missed lessons will not be reimbursed. I will reschedule one missed lesson each semester if notice is provided in advance and there is a valid reason for the absence (sickness, family emergency, etc.). After this one lesson, I will make up additional missed lessons only as time is available. Missed lessons in which no advance notification is given will not be eligible for a make-up lesson. There will be a make-up lesson period at the end of each semester, and make-up lessons may also be scheduled throughout the semester. I will contact students if lessons are cancelled due to snow or inclement weather. Missed lessons due to weather will be rescheduled. If I need to miss a lesson for any reason, I will reschedule it as soon as possible. Since weekly lessons are important for musical development, maintaining a regular lesson schedule will be strongly encouraged.

Cancelling Lessons

Registering for lessons is considered a yearly commitment (fall 2020-spring 2021). After an entire year of lessons, students and parents can make a more informed decision about piano lessons. If a student decides to stop taking lessons at any point in the middle of the year, a month's notice is required. If a month's notice is not given, one month's tuition will be charged at the point of cancellation. This policy applies to both new and returning students. Any extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis.

Registration

A non-refundable registration fee of \$25 will be used to cover studio materials and activities throughout the year, including a 3-ring notebook, printing of activity sheets, recital hall rental, and student awards. *The registration fee does not cover tuition, student books, or any costs associated with participating in KCMFA festivals or events.* Parents of new students will also be asked to sign the **Multi-Media Consent Form** at the point of registration.

COVID-19 Protocol

Students desiring in person lessons should be aware of the following policies:

- Students should wait in their vehicles until I open the door at their lesson time.
- I will give students hand sanitizer when they come in and again when they leave.
- Masks are required to be worn at all times during the lesson.
- Students should not come for lessons if they or anyone in their family have been sick within the past 14 days (cough, fever, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms, etc.). Please contact me before the lesson time, and we will do an online lesson instead.

- Students and parents must sign a COVID-19 liability waiver prior to the first in person lesson.

Distance learning will be offered as an alternative to in person lessons. If the need should arise to temporarily stop in person lessons, all lessons will continue online according the set lesson schedule. Any schedule changes will be discussed on an individual basis.

Contact Information

I am always happy to talk with you about your student's progress or answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email. You can also visit our studio website for studio news, pictures, and other information.

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