

Piano Lesson Policies

Jacob Evan Robertson

A quick note...

These lesson policies are put in place only out of an abundance of caution. There is nothing extraordinary about anything you'll read below, and as long as common courtesy is used, we will have great experiences together on our journey of learning. It all comes down to this: I want every student to get the most possible out of lessons with me, so I strive to make a personal connection with each and every one of them and try to make the business side of things go so smoothly you hardly even notice it's there. Happy reading! - Jacob Evan Robertson

1. Lessons Description and Content

- **First Lesson:** During the first lesson (which is a free 30-min trial lesson) the main goal is to connect with the parents and student on a personal level and get an idea of what the student's interests are musically and otherwise. We'll cover some basics, but mostly have a good time together at the piano. Then, as you are comfortable in the coming days, we can discuss plans for future lessons!
- **Weekly lessons:** I offer 30-minute weekly lessons. From the beginning we will focus mostly on the ability to play basic songs and improvise. In addition, we will be studying music theory, music performance, sight-reading, and musical creativity through listening and composition. Throughout the year I will continually evaluate the student's progress and learning needs and adjust my approach as needed. During all lessons it is requested that everyone present respects the learning space and helps to create an environment conducive to learning. This will help ensure the best experience for everyone, and the best use of your time and money.

2. Billing

- **Billing Cycle:** I will send out the lesson schedule by the beginning of each month, and will provide an invoice shortly before the last lesson of the month. Payment for each month's lessons is due at the time of the last lesson of the month.
- **Billing Method:** I accept checks, but am open to other methods if needed.

3. Punctuality

- As the instructor, I will always arrive at your home (or lessons studio) at the agreed upon time. At that time the student should also be prepared to begin the lesson very shortly, with any lesson books or materials at the piano. It is also suggested that students spend some time prior to the lesson warming up and reviewing material in order to make the lesson more efficient.

4. Scheduling/Make-up Lessons

- Planned absences: I will send out the lesson schedule by the beginning of each month, at which time you can review and inform me if there will be any planned absences. These planned missed lessons, if canceled with at least twenty-four hours advance notice, can be rescheduled if my schedule permits. This is on a case-by-case basis and there is no guarantee of a reschedule. There will be no charge for planned absences.
- Last-second call-outs Any lesson cancelled without a 24-hour advance notice will be billed in the end-of-month invoice as though the lesson had taken place. And no reschedule will be provided unless there happens to be an opening at a convenient time.

5. Materials for Lessons

- Students are responsible for purchasing their own books and other materials as needed. No materials are usually needed for the first few weeks.

6. Parental Supervision

- Parents are encouraged to sit in on lessons if and when they wish to.
- Parents should also supervise student practice during the week to ensure quantity and quality of practice.
- A parent or guardian should always accompany minor students to the lesson, whether or not they actually sit in the practice room for the lesson.
- Younger students should practice for 15 minutes a day, five days per week. It would be even better if the student is at a place where they can practice 30 minutes a day, 7 days per week. It is up to the parent to ultimately decide which of these two

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options is best for their child, but the teacher will recommend one or the other after evaluating the student. It is understood that there will be days where things get in the way of practice and that is acceptable as long as practice is not regularly missed.

7. Student Motivation

- It is very important that the student is never discouraged or criticized for their practice or performance. While the teacher does have to correct the student, this is done in an encouraging way that doesn't fail to also highlight areas where improvement is seen. I always tell parents that the best way to improve upon a student's performance or practice technique is to provide whatever positive feedback possible. This will encourage them to practice more and the teacher will be able to accomplish more with a student who is motivated.