

Barbara Grout Piano School

Student Guidelines

Please print out, sign and include with your tuition payment

Lessons:

- ▶ Be fair to yourself and your fellow students - be on time! Prompt attendance at lessons and classes is essential. Every effort is made in the studio to stay on schedule and ensure that each student receives full lesson time.
- ▶ No need to knock when entering the studio; just come in quietly, remove your shoes and settle in.
- ▶ Come 15 minutes early or remain 15 minutes after your lesson. There is a computer and electronic piano available to use while you wait for your lesson, or while your sibling has their lesson. There will be weekly sight-reading exercises to practice.
- ▶ Parents are highly encouraged to observe lessons. Parents of those children taking Suzuki lessons are required to attend and take notes for their children.
- ▶ Gum chewing is not permitted at lessons.
- ▶ If you cannot make your scheduled lesson, you may try to switch times with another student (see the [Calendar](#)). Always call the studio and leave a message if you are swapping lessons with some one.

Practice Guidelines and Expectations:

- ▶ Rate of progress is directly correlated with preparation time for lessons. A minimum of 20-30 minutes (for those with 30 minute lessons) or 35-45 minutes (for those with 45 minute lessons), 6 days a week is expected.
- ▶ Parents should remember that goal achievement is more important than the number of minutes practiced each day.
- ▶ At the lesson, a specific weekly musical goal will be set for the student to achieve. If the goal is not achieved, then I will work with the student and teach how to practice to obtain goals. We will do this until the student is able to use the skill of breaking down segments of music into smaller sections, focusing on each section until it becomes easy, and then putting the polished sections back together again.
- ▶ **Listening** daily to a recording of the music that is being learned is also required for accelerated learning to occur. This is also part of the Suzuki philosophy which is based on the premise of “mother-tongue” learning. Dr. Suzuki observed how

babies learn language, which is to hear the mother and father speak daily until the baby is ready to copy the parent. Every time the child attempts to speak, he has positive reinforcement and always learns to speak the language he has heard from birth. If every child can learn a language, then every child can learn to play a musical instrument, especially if nurtured by love in a musical environment one small step at a time.

Required Activities & Events:

In addition to regular lessons and group classes, students will be required to participate in 2 Concerts. The concerts take place in December: (Holiday and Duet Concert) and May: (Composition and Ensemble Concert). Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Multiple Piano Festival concert in November which is put on by the [Boulder Area Music Teachers Association](#) as well as concerts at nursing homes throughout the year.

I understand and agree with the student guidelines

Student

Date