

Lesson Information

Lesson Format: A combination of private lessons and group lessons are offered to all students. Students will receive 27 private lessons and 5 group lessons over the course of the academic year. Group lessons are included in tuition and are required as part of a comprehensive piano program.

Lesson Days: Lessons are offered September-May. Private lessons are offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm. All group lessons occur on Tuesdays between 9-10am. Options for summer lessons are announced in the spring.

Lesson Length: 30 or 45 minutes (private); 60 minutes (group)

Levels: All levels of students are welcome, beginning through advanced

There are three parts to our piano program:

Private lessons provide individualized instruction in piano technique and musicianship. Beginning students work through method books by Faber and Faber or Alfred. Intermediate and advanced students work on a variety of music. Although lessons focus on the classical piano repertoire, technique, sight reading, and theory, students are also welcome to work on music from other genres they find interesting, such as sacred, jazz, musical theater, and pop. Music theory and history concepts are introduced through method books and repertoire and are immediately reinforced through assigned music and written homework. This time provides the foundational building blocks for piano study.

Group lessons provide a community of piano-playing friends to learn with, play for, and enjoy. The longer time-frame allows for focused study of music theory and music history. Performance etiquette is taught and students enjoy a comfortable atmosphere to practice playing in front of others. In addition, group lessons are fun! Concepts are taught and reviewed in an interactive format through games and fun activities. Students who have earned practice awards receive their prizes. Twice a year (at Christmas and at the end of May) our group lessons turn into piano parties where students play for each other, celebrate achievements, and enjoy sweet treats. Because so much of piano study is done in isolation, group lessons are vital for meeting and collaborating with other musicians (duets, piano games, performances) and encouraging each other in their progress.

Home practice is an essential part of a student's growth. Daily practice, 5 days a week, is important to reinforce concepts, build technique, and develop musical literacy at the piano. Length of practice will vary based on the student's level of advancement. It is the parent's responsibility to schedule and enforce daily practice. The weekly assignments should be viewed as "homework." Completion of homework and thorough preparation of assignments for each lesson is expected.

Keys for a successful practice schedule:

1. Practice in an area free of distractions (TV, cellphone, visitors, etc.)
2. Make sure your practice area is well-lit. Invest in a lamp near or at the piano, if needed.
3. Have your music, pencils, erasers, and metronome ready.
4. Set aside a regular time every day to practice: i.e., before breakfast, right after school, after homework, after dinner, or before TV time. Aim for 5 days of practice each week. One of these should be the day before your lesson and another should be the day after your lesson.
5. Make weekly progress on your assignment. Don't forget your theory written work!

The discipline of daily practice leads to progress which fuels motivation to continue to practice and progress. Parents are expected to be actively involved in practicing with beginners and young children until they reach an age where they can be more self-directed in their practicing. Sitting in on lessons will aid parents in how to coach children at home. Students who do not practice regularly will be placed on probation for the remainder of the year, and if the situation does not improve, may be dropped from the studio at the end of a year.

At the Lesson

Arrive at each lesson punctually, well-prepared, and with all necessary materials. If arrival is five minutes late, the lesson is five minutes shorter. Students reserve a time slot, NOT the number of minutes. Walk in when it's your lesson time—no need to knock or wait for the previous student to come out. Have books open and ready to go at the time of your lesson. Every minute counts! Fingernails need to be trimmed short. Absolutely no food, drinks, or gum during lessons.

Mine is an open-door policy; although I teach children alone, you may sit in on a lesson at any time. Young beginner students (5-8) need parent attendance more frequently. Please observe silently without interruption and take note of my suggestions regarding practice, technique, etc. I encourage all parents to come in for at least the last 5 minutes to review the assignment for the week, especially elementary-age students. I'm happy to briefly answer a quick question or two at the beginning of the lesson, so that it's on the student's time and doesn't take up the time of the next student. If you need more than a few minutes, please call or email me.

Books and Materials

All students need to have the required books and materials for lessons, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Your books and materials fee is covered in the cost of tuition, and I will purchase any books needed.

Tuition 2023 - 2024

Tuition is an annual fee based on 32 Teaching Weeks from September-May. Tuition is all-inclusive and covers 27 private lessons, 5 group lessons, books & materials, practice incentives, and awards. Tuition is divided into 9 equal monthly payments, whether there are 2 or 5 lessons in that month. Payments are due on the 12th of every month and may be paid by cash, check, or Venmo @Cori-Belle.

Monthly payment for 30-minute lessons: \$156

Monthly payment for 45-minute lessons: \$227

Semester payments (due Sept/Jan) are also available for those who prefer to pay twice a year.

Semester payment for 30-minute lessons: \$700

Semester payment for 45-minute lessons: \$1020

Beginning students are encouraged to take 30-minute lessons; Intermediate and Advanced students are encouraged to take 45-minute lessons. All students receive (5) 60-min. group lessons regardless of level.

No refunds will be granted for missed lessons. Please notify me by text or e-mail if a student will be absent. There are no makeups for missed lessons; however, students may send an audio or video recording to me for feedback, if desired. If the student has stayed home from school due to illness but feels well enough to take an online piano lesson (via Zoom) during their normally scheduled time, please notify me by 8am the day of their lesson. In case of inclement weather, lessons may be taught online.

In the rare case that I have to cancel, private lessons will be taught online or made up in person on the next scheduled group lesson day. If it is necessary to cancel a group lesson class, there will be no make-up; instead, students will be e-mailed an optional enrichment activity packet to complete.

Students commit to a full year of piano study, September - May. If you need to discontinue lessons for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible (30 days' notice is preferred). There are no refunds for missed lessons; if a student ends lessons prior to the end of the school year, any remaining payments will be collected and remaining lessons will be forfeited.

Tuition will be prorated for students who join the studio mid-year.

Discounts are not given for multiple students in the same family.

A late fee will be added to payments received after the 15th of the month. Chronic late payments may result in lesson termination.