

Lesson Policy 2018/2019

Lessons:

Private lessons are, in general, 30 minutes in length, on a weekly basis and consist of studying piano literature (various styles), technique, and music theory (chords/scales/etc.). For more specific details on each individual level, please refer to the specific level at the end of the letter.

Books and Materials:

Each student is required to bring an 8 1/2x11 inch spiral note pad. We will write notes and the weekly assignment to practice in this. This is very important to bring each week, as it is a reminder for me as well of what the student has been working on.

Each student will also have 1-3 books of piano literature that we are working on, the number of books will be determined by how advanced the student is, and what all the student/family and teacher have decided to work on.

I also incorporate play along CDs and other play along tracks. These have become an invaluable part of my training with students in the last couple years. I realize this is an extra cost, it is not a requirement, but if possible, I would recommend it.

A metronome is also a requirement. This won't need to be brought to the lesson, but will be needed for the student's practice at home. You can buy a physical/digital one at your local music store for about \$15-20, or download a free app on your phone or pad device. The one I recommend is called "Tempo" by frozen ape. It runs around \$3. There is a link on the "Resources" page of my website if you need help finding it.

Monthly Fee:

Monthly fee is \$95 a month. This will include 4 guaranteed lessons. I do not charge for a 5th lesson if there are five weeks in the month. The extra weeks will apply as make-ups for students down the road, or if you are consistent, a bonus lesson.

Payment can be made with cash or check. Checks are to be written out to JD Dorland. Please try to pay at the first lesson of the month. I do not wish to enforce any kind of late fee. If for some reason the first lesson of the month happens to not work, I just ask that you communicate with me so we can work out whatever will work for you. Consistency is my main goal here.

Missed Lessons:

There are no guaranteed make up lessons, nor reimbursements given to students for missed lessons. However, you will NOT be charged for any lesson that JD cannot teach. If there are natural causes for lessons to be missed, such as power outages, or snowy weather, you will be credited towards the next month for any lesson time that was interfered with.

To take full advantage of this system it is very important the student comes at his/her time. The time slot is theirs unless otherwise discussed with JD. Because it is your time slot, even if you miss, this is a slot that cannot be given to another student.

The main time that I can give make-up lessons to students is when another student is gone. Any notice before hand would be much appreciated, especially to the students that may like to be able to do a make-up lesson.

Tardiness:

Students are responsible to be here on time. If a student is late, the lesson will only go for the remainder of the student's time slot. If the student is 10 mins late it will be assumed the student is not coming. If you know in advance you'll be late, please send me a text. I very, very rarely will answer a call during a lesson, so texting is best.

For those gifted in promptness. Thank you for being on time!! I'd ask if you could refrain from coming in before 10mins to lesson time. Depending on how large the group before you is, or your group is, the waiting room may get tight. When you do arrive early, or are waiting during a lesson time, please try to be as courteous with your volume as you would like if you were the one taking lessons.

Practice:

Parents with Students 18 and under:

It is my goal to make this time an enjoyable, and challenging time for the student to grow in thier musicianship. My goal is to work myself out of a job with your student. I would hope that when they leave here, they have been trained and come to an understanding of how to learn and play for themselves. With this goal in mind, I encourage each student to practice at least 4 times a week, not including lesson day. Depending on age, this time will be between 15-30mins for the beginner to intermediate, and 30-45 for the intermediate to advanced levels. Please feel free to ask about your particular student and the expectations of his/her individual practice time. Practice is expected to be enforced and encouraged by the parents. I know we would love for the student to sit down on his/her own accord, and while it does happen, this is not the norm. Please encourage your students to practice. You are spending well-earned money for lessons and I want you to get the most out of this time.

18 and Older:

I have similar goals for you as well. However, I understand the time we have may not be as extensive as a younger student. I will make every effort to help you achieve your personal goals, as well as make sure that your musicianship has a firm foundation in the fundamentals of reading and theory.

Safety Issues

Language: I want you to know that my desire is for this place of learning to be a safe environment for every student. Language we use will be appropriate. This goes for myself, and the students. If you have a student that tends to use profane language, I'd ask that you encourage them to taper it during lessons.

Touch: This does not occur very often, but I feel I should mention it. I would prefer minimal physical contact of affection. Referring more to the idea of hugs and so forth. If your student tends to show his/her appreciation in this manner, I would ask you to encourage them to go for more of a high 5 representation.

Also, because playing the piano requires a certain form. There are occasionally times where I, the instructor, need to touch a finger, or wrist, or

shoulder, in order to emphasize the best possible technique. Like, I said, this is very moderate, and not very often, but it does come up and I want you to be aware of it.

Accountability: I highly encourage guardians to have at least one other person with the student, preferably an adult. This person is invited to wait in the waiting area of the home studio.

Video Tape: I try my best to video tape my lesson sessions. It's not necessarily the quality to hand out to students. This is more of an accountability and safety net for myself in case of any accusations that may occur. I have never had an accusation, but in this day and age, it helps me feel protected, as well as hopefully you the student/parent feel safer knowing that precautions are being taken and thought of.

Piano Levels:

Primary/Level One-at this stage it is all about learning the notes and counting and getting into some foundational musical ideas. If they are in a primary book, they should constantly be saying note letters and counting out loud. They will probably have anywhere from 2-5 songs they are working on, depending on progress. They will also be getting started on a metronome and scales toward the end of primary into level 1. Level 1 will include Lesson and Performance Books of the Piano Adventures.

Level 2-You should have at least 3 books for sure once you are here: The Piano Adventures Lesson, Performance, and Popular Rep (unless the instructor works something different out). By this time the students should be in scales and possibly even into chords. They will probably have 1-2 songs in each book. They will be working on timing with a metronome and bringing their musicality to a higher level adding dynamics and pedal. They should spend about 3-5 mins on scales, same with chords, if they have them, and anywhere from 5-10mins per song a practice session. If you can encourage them to work on their scales and chords first that would be a great help!

Level 3-Is not much different than level 2 other than we will be getting much deeper into chords and scales and how to apply them into more modern/contemporary music such as jazz, contemporary worship, and pop music, depending on what the individual circumstances and goals are. At this point the practice time may increase to closer to 45 min a day. The music is harder and the chord and scale warm ups are a bit more difficult.

Level 4 and Up-At this stage you are reading music decently and we will continue on into the direction the parents/students wish to go. You will still have one or two of the Piano Adventure books, and then also some additional materials, most likely a form of Classical music and some kind of popular material.

Jazz and Improvisation-This can fall into multiple levels. We will explore how to apply chords to a lead sheet. Talk about bass line construction. Learn how to play with a bass player or greater size group. We will also talk about improvisation techniques and tips. We will explore chord progression and explore how to apply the scales and chords to create our own melodies. It is a must that the student has a firm grip on Major Scales and Chords.

Recitals-Recitals are not mandatory, however I highly recommend them. Christmas is the only official recital I do at this time. Recitals are a great time for students to shine and show off what they have been working on. Anytime a student plays in public it is great experience. If your school or church has talent shows, or the like, I encourage you to enroll your student to perform. I also have been doing a Summer event. A hot dog bbq night with the students, and their families. We set out a keyboard outside and let students play background music while everyone enjoys their food and yard games.

If you have any questions or concerns with anything that you have read, please feel free to contact me. I'll be happy to help in any way I can. If you have no issues with what you have read, please sign the signature sheet. Thank you!

JD Dorland

Cell: 253-279-1552

Email: jddorlandmusic@gmail.com

Website: www.jddorlandmusic.com