**Mark Richins Piano Studio Policy**

 Welcome to the Mark Richins Piano Studio! There are many benefits to the study of music, and especially piano. Music students are found to have higher IQ’s, levels of maturity and emotional regulation. Piano offers a great way for your child to grow and mature, with many opportunities for rewarding hard work and self-discovery. We wish you luck as you and your student embark on this adventure!

**Piano Availability**

 In order to be successful at piano, the student needs access to some sort of keyboard. Lessons cannot begin until the student has an adequate keyboard to practice on at home. For beginning students, an electronic keyboard is acceptable for starting out. However, if the student expects or desires to continue to intermediate and advanced music, an acoustic piano becomes a minimum requirement. There are many reasons for this from sound quality to technical demands of the repertoire. Ask the teacher about details. If affording a piano becomes a problem, it can easily be managed by holding off on lessons for a month or two and saving the money you would have spent on lessons themselves.

**Method Books**

Method books are included in the price of tuition and are purchased by the teacher as the student needs them. The studio primarily uses Faber’s Piano Adventure series. Parents are welcome to speak to the teacher about other method books if they think it would be a better fit for their child. The first lesson and interview includes an assessment to find what level method book would be best for the new student.

**Technology**

There are many electronic applications that aid immensely in the process of learning music. They are used actively and regularly in weekly lessons. It will be an advantage for students to have access to an I-pad at home. For students that cannot afford the I-Pad, students have an option of coming to their lessons half an hour early to practice their music skills using the studio I-pad for an extra $10 a week.

**Practice Time**

 Practice time every day is critical for each student. It is more than just weekly piano homework, if the student doesn’t practice at home, he will not improve as a pianist, progress musically, or reap any of the other benefits discussed at the beginning of the policy. The critical element is to have some time at the piano consistently every day. With this in mind, the student is expected to practice 5 days a week, for at least 15 to 30 minutes depending on their level. Instructions on what to do each day for practice will be given by the teacher to easily fill the 30 minute time period. Parents are invited to sit in on lessons to get an understanding of what the student should be doing as well. For accountability, the studio has a practice sheet the student can take home each week. If it is returned signed by the parent, the student can receive a selection of prizes.

**Performing**

Recitals offer a great way for students to show off what they’ve learned and to develop confidence as a pianist. Mark Richins Piano works to provide two recitals every year. These are typically held every six months. Every student is strongly encouraged to participate by preparing one or two pieces for every recital. These pieces are planned between the student and the teacher several weeks in advance. Students and parents are welcome to bring pieces they would like to perform. It should be understood that the feasibility of performing such pieces depends on the level of the student. Depending on your students’ level, he or she can also participate in community festivals and competitions. If you’re interested in getting entered into a festival or competition, please talk to your teacher.

**Communication**

Please keep the teacher well informed of your goals and expectations for your students’ experience with piano as they develop and change. This includes any plans to terminate lessons, desire to participate in community music festivals and competitions, and especially struggles the student seems to be having. The teacher will send regular correspondence on the progress of the student and expectations on practicing at home. Please inform the teacher if there are any concerns regarding the teacher’s teaching style or other things related to the studio. The teacher is eager to hear of ways he can improve the studio as well as his techniques as a teacher. The teacher can be contacted any time by call or text at (317) 739-7201 or by Email at markrichins34@gmail.com.

**Make-up lessons**

In the event that a student misses his or her lesson, a make-up lesson can be arranged according to the teacher’s schedule. These must be arranged with the teacher.

**Pricing**

Mark Richins Piano charges the following rates for lessons 30 minutes, 45 minutes, and 60 minutes long.

30 minutes - $100/month

45 minutes - $150/month

60 minutes - $200/month

30 minute lessons are best suited for beginner students, with longer lessons available as they advance. All fees are monthly and are due at the beginning of the month. If the first lesson occurs without payment, a late fee of $10 is charged. Following lessons cannot continue until that month’s fees, including the late fee, has been paid for. No refunds are available unless a cancellation is made by the teacher himself. This is held in force even if the student shows up late, or the student is unable to make it that day. In the case of a missed lesson, see the policy for make-up lessons. Rates are based off of a 4 week month. 5th week lessons are an added bonus for you!

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree to the terms discussed in the policy for the Mark Richins Piano Studio.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Media Permission:**

Mark Richins Studio enjoys posting pictures and videos of its students’ accomplishments on its studio Facebook page. Please initial below to give Mark Richins Piano Studio permission to post your child’s picture online as they succeed in turn. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_