

## **Piano Studio Guidelines**

Tualatin Valley Academy 2022-2023

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### **Registration:**

To register for piano lessons each student needs to turn in at the TVA office a lesson application form and payment for the first month of lessons + materials fee. These items must be received before lessons can begin. Lesson times are scheduled on a first-come basis once these materials have been received.

### **Tuition and Fees:**

Piano lessons are scheduled for 30 minutes of individual instruction on a weekly basis. The tuition rate is set based on a complete school year (35 weeks) and consideration is given for 1-2 missed lessons during the school year due to classroom functions, inclement weather or illness. Tuition payments are scheduled for September through May, with lessons beginning the week of August 29th and ending on June 2nd. June 5th-7th is reserved for makeup lessons as needed. New students may begin at the start of each month and a student needing to withdraw may do so at the end a month with 2 weeks notice requested for scheduling.

Materials Fee: \$50/school year (\$30 if starting January or later)

Monthly Lesson Tuition: \$110

### **Billing:**

Lesson payments are to be turned in to the TVA office with checks made out to Tualatin Valley Academy. The first month of tuition + materials fee must be turned in at the time of registration; following months may be included on the school's monthly billing statement.

### **Materials Fee:**

This annual fee covers music for practicing, theory worksheets, assignment notebooks, recital expenses and any incentive programs used throughout the year. If piano books are lost, they will need to be replaced by the parent or a replacement fee paid (this would be the cost of the books lost).

**Missed Lessons:**

The lesson tuition is set as a monthly rate, rather than as a per-lesson charge. Most students will receive the full 35 lessons each school year, but the rate takes into consideration 1-2 missed lessons. If a student does miss a lesson, I will make every effort to schedule a makeup lesson and often it is possible to reschedule in advance if there is a conflicting event. Please do your best to notify me in advance if you know your student will be missing their lesson so I can look for rescheduling opportunities. We follow the school schedule for vacation days and holidays, so these are not considered missed lessons.

**Being Prepared for Lessons:**

Please send the assignment book and all piano books currently being used to the lesson each week. The other important thing you can do to prepare for the lessons is work out a practice schedule that fits your home routine. In general, students show the most progress with a consistent practice time 5 days a week. For younger students this may be relatively short, but older students should plan on 30 minutes of practice time as a guideline. Please practice all the assigned material for the week first and then fill any extra time with review songs. Keep in mind that productive practice involves repetition as the songs become more familiar!

**Recitals:**

Two piano recitals are planned each year; one before Christmas vacation and one in the Spring. These recitals give the students an opportunity to share what they have been working on with each other and their families. They are meant to be both fun and beneficial for building confidence and learning presentation skills.

**Home Instrument:**

Students are required to have a piano or full-sized keyboard to practice on at home. An acoustic piano is recommended whenever possible, because they feel and sound differently from electronic instruments. If you are purchasing an electronic keyboard, please look for full-sized keys, weighted action (able to produce soft/loud sounds based on how hard the key is struck), and a standard pedal attachment. If you need a recommendation for a piano tuner or technician please let me know as I can give you a referral.