

Mrs V's KEY ISSUES

Piano Notes for September

SUMMER LESSON SUCCESS!

Students ended their summer piano lessons with a pizza/movie party at my house! It was a wild, good time with 2 movies playing – The Sound of Music and The Newsies!! Many students learned between 10 and 50 songs/pages of music in just 8 weeks or less, so kudos to all who participated and kept their piano skills active!

HOW ARE LESSONS GOING?

Following each lesson, please check your child's assignment notebook, in particular noting the symbols indicating how the lesson went. A key for these symbols is listed on my website MrsVs.com. Also, students will be signing a "practice promise" at the first September lesson. Taking piano lessons is a commitment, and parents, your support of the practice promise will not only help teach your child responsibility, but will also provide him/her with time management skills that can be useful for a lifetime! And on the subject of practicing, PLEASE schedule practice for THE SAME TIME EACH and EVERY DAY!!! A regular practice time becomes a good habit, and those students who adhere to a regular practice time will advance more quickly...

LEAVING MRS V MESSAGES

If at all possible, please use email (vdschaaf@sbcglobal.net) to leave me messages OR text me. I check email and texts right before retiring to bed for the evening, which most nights is not until 11:00pm or after. You will get a much faster response with email since I can respond to it no matter what time of day it is! Also, since I send e-bills (tuition stays constant at \$120.00 per month throughout the school year), it's important for me to have your up-to-date email address. Please let me know ASAP if I need to make a change with your email address.

TO KNOCK OR NOT TO KNOCK?

When coming for lessons, students can just walk right on in! Knocking only serves to aggravate my dogs, causing them to bark -- barking unfortunately is a disturbance to the student having a lesson. The same is true of parents coming to the door to ask a question -- a better idea for questions is to instead simply send in a note with your child OR email me at vdschaaf@sbcglobal.net OR send me a text at 512-630-9908. And finally, when it's time for a student to leave, parents please wait in your car -- your child will be out shortly!

WEEKLY PRACTICE RECORDS

Please help your child remember to fill out the weekly practice record, taped on the cover of beginning piano books or taped inside the cover of assignment notebooks. In future newsletters I will be listing those students who practiced 100 minutes or more per week. Those students will then be eligible for the outstanding student of the month honor and, if chosen, will be featured in the next month's newsletter. Mr. V will pick 2 names from a jar at the end of each month...(if a student practices 100 min or more each week, his/her name goes on a little piece of paper and is placed in the jar). Regular practice is so important for steady progress to be made! You all CAN do it!!

MAKE - UP LESSONS

My teaching schedule this fall remains FULL, so make-up lessons will depend on whether or not a cancellation occurs, *and*, only two make-ups per semester will be allowed. Unless I cancel a lesson and choose not to give a make-up, no refunds will be given. NOTE—this is unlike the summer when I charge only for lessons attended. September through May tuition is a monthly rate charged for reserving your time on the weekly teaching schedule, and it's important for you to try to attend regularly at your scheduled time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



Fall lessons will begin TUESDAY SEPT 5th. All students, please note pertinent dates and information on my Piano Studio Policy (located at MrsVs.com), including tuition, vacation dates, piano party performances, and the anticipated studio recital time.



I'm looking forward to another GREAT year of piano!!
SEE YOU SOON! :o)