

BOSWELL PIANO STUDIO

New to Piano? What are the expectations?

Starting a new instrument is both an exciting and possibly daunting process! I strive to keep lessons as fun and creative as possible, but the secret to success is assisting your child on how to work consistently to foster proper practice habits and musical facility. Music is hopefully a lifelong journey, and in my opinion, a wonderful avenue to understanding one's self better and build confidence in all areas of life!

How can I help as a parent?:

1. **The right environment** - It is crucial to create a space of positivity and encouragement for your young musician to grow in! There should always be a balance between push and flow, and to understand that many of the skills take time and will not come immediately.

2. **Consistency** - Just like school, practicing and lessons need to happen consistently to see true and lasting results. When they are young, it is a team effort to schedule time for them to practice consistently and be active with their music. This means that if lessons are missed frequently or there is no designated piano time during the week between lessons, the results become the same as a child routinely missing school!

3. **Taking notes** - I will always review lesson material with students and write down their weekly assignments for them, however if you at any time have questions about what their assignment is and would like to participate in that aspect, this is always welcomed.

Curious about more tips? Please visit my YouTube channel "Margaret Boswell Piano" where I post many tips for practicing and for parents!

What do I hope from my students?:

1. **Positive attitude** - There is no perfect way to play or learn, so all I ask is for an open and willing attitude at each lesson. If you are having a bad day, this is okay and normal, all I ask is that you give things a try!

2. **Playing while talking** - Please refrain from playing the keys while one of us is talking! This is highly distracting and a hard habit to break, so please be mindful.

3. **Supplies** - Always have your piano books/songs, and your homework notebook to write down assignments in for the week.

4. **Practicing** - We want to be practicing **at least 3-5 times a week**. Piano needs some quality time to become a great friend, so make sure you visit yours frequently. Practicing length varies with age and level, but beginners should practice at least 15 minutes, intermediate students 30 minutes and more advanced students 45 minutes - 60 minutes depending on repertoire. *The most important part is consistency and setting a goal for that practice session*

What can you expect from me?:

1. **Preparation expectations** - *Being prepared means being able to play through your assignments from beginning to end with minimal mistakes. Of course we are not looking for perfection, but it needs to be clear that there was genuine effort made during the week.*

2. **Lessons vs. Practicing** - *While a great deal of our lesson time is spent working on things and learning new music, it should not be confused with an extra practice session. The work between lessons ensures that we will have a productive time together!*

3. **I ask many questions of my students!** - *As a teacher I do believe in taking the time to ask critical questions of ourselves so we can become masterful problem solvers and thinkers. If I see there is much to be improved on a piece, I will spend the time to improve those things before moving on to a new piece.*

4. **Observed vs. Solo Lessons** - *If I feel that a student is unable to wholly focus with a parent observing their lesson I will ask for them to have a solo lesson instead so they feel the space to learn comfortably and efficiently.*