

Welcome!



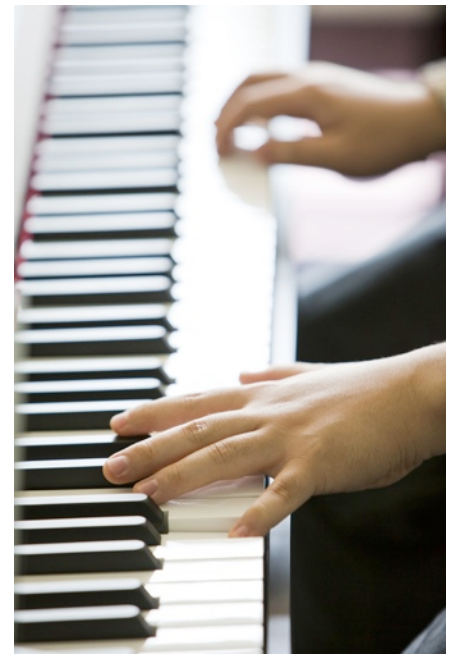
^{The}
PianoExpress

Everything you need to
know up front

Hi there,

Welcome to The Piano Express! We are so happy you are joining our community! It is our commitment to provide your child with the highest quality education experience that we can imagine. You can expect us to maintain an “above-and-beyond” approach in everything we do. Whether it’s our teaching staff, our teaching tools, our affordable rates, or even our scheduling policies... we have you and your needs in mind. It is our habit to put you ahead of us. We are a business that provides a service, so we genuinely and whole-heartedly go out of our way to serve.

Thank you, and welcome aboard!



Practicing at home

When it comes to piano lessons for your child, what does success look like?

Every parent we've ever met would agree that they want their child to accomplish a certain level of proficiency at the piano. They would also agree that the child should enjoy the journey.

Stated another way, they don't want their child feeling "stuck," and they don't want their child unhappy.

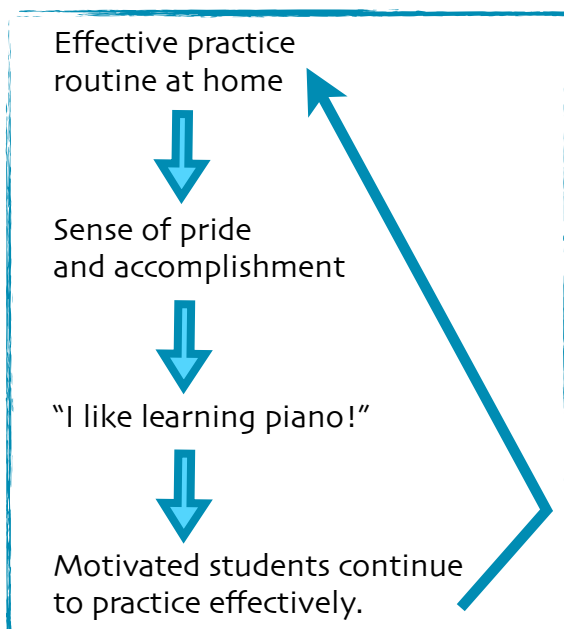
We do our best here at the studio to teach with passion and enthusiasm... but what can you, the parent, do? Honestly, the best thing you can do is help set up a manageable practice routine at home. [Our web site has several short videos, giving you practical, detailed advice on how to set up a successful practice routine at home.](#) Please take the time to watch these videos and refer to them as often as needed.

Please visit:

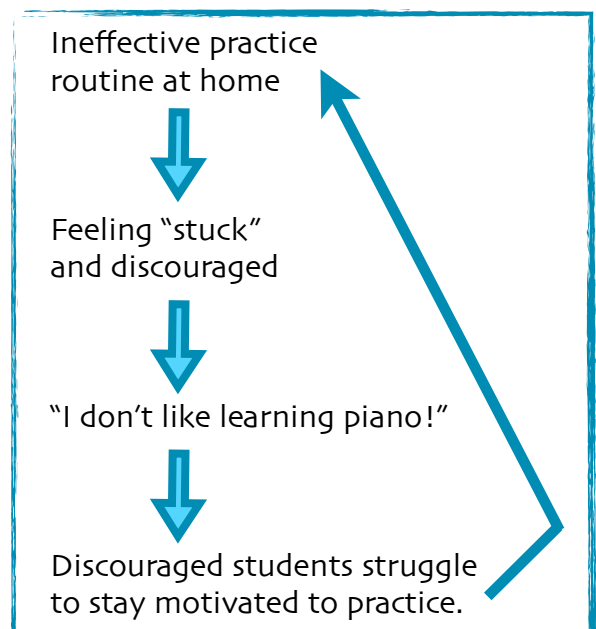
www.thepianoexpress.com/students



POSITIVE CYCLE



NEGATIVE CYCLE



Rates, Policies, and Schedule.

We are proud to be able to offer quality music education at an affordable price. However, we realize that some families might still struggle to fit piano in their budget. We believe that education should be available to all children, regardless of the family's finances. If your family is in financial need, feel free to set up a confidential meeting. We are supporters of MusicLink Foundation which provides assistance for families in need.



The Piano Express Studio Policies - Effective December 2015

- Payments to our studio occur on a quarterly basis (four payments a year).
- Quarterly tuition for one student is \$297.
- For families with siblings, there is a discounted rate. The first child will be charged our regular rate, and all other siblings will be charged \$247.
- Payment is due at the beginning of every quarter. If a payment is not made by the "later after" day, a \$30 late fee is added to the tuition. If a payment is STILL not received seven days after the "late after" day, The Piano Express reserves the right to suspend the students lessons until the payment is received. Missed lessons due to suspension can be rescheduled, but are non-refundable.

-Quarterly Schedule. Here are the start and end dates for the quarters, as well as the due dates for payments:

Winter quarter, 2015 - 2016:	December 1 - March 5 <u>Payment due: First week of December.</u> <u>Late after December 15.</u>
Spring quarter, 2016:	March 6 - June 4 <u>Payment due: Second week of March.</u> <u>Late after March 21.</u>
Summer quarter, 2016:	June 5 - Aug 31 <u>Payment due: Second week of June.</u> <u>Late after June 21.</u>
Fall quarter, 2016:	Sept 1 - Nov 31 <u>Payment due: First week of September.</u> <u>Late after September 15.</u>

-Every quarter will contain exactly 12 classes.

-We will close on major holidays, however, this will not reduce the number of classes per quarter.

-We will close our studio if road conditions are poor, due to snowy weather. We do not follow LCPS in regard to snow day closings.

We make all of our decisions by 12 noon on days of snowy weather. If we decide to close, all families scheduled for that day will be notified via email. We will also post closings on our Facebook page. If we are closed, we will make sure every student is given the opportunity to make the missed class up on another day. We are not able to refund on days we close because of snow.

-If your child misses a lesson for any reason, we will help you reschedule it for another day. Sorry, we are not able to refund missed lessons.

-If your child joins our studio part-way through a quarter, the tuition for that quarter will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of classes attended.

-If your child discontinues classes part of the way through the quarter, your account will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of classes attended, and a refund will be issued.



For a complete look at our quarterly schedule, please see our yearly calendar for specifics at:

www.thepianoexpress/calendar-schedule

Buying a piano

If you buy something that looks like this... This is a 61-key keyboard. Not a piano.

- Pros: -They are really affordable! \$99 - \$149
 -They are portable and small.
- Cons: -Poorest sound quality of all choices.
 -The "feel" of the keys are not the same as a real piano. They are "unweighted." The student will always be bothered by how heavy the keys of a real piano feel if they are used to a the feel of a small keyboard.



Why buy? If you are looking for an inexpensive keyboard to get your child started with, this will work. However, it is only a temporary purchase. You will need to upgrade after the first year or so to a more responsive instrument.

Popular brands: Yamaha, Casio

If you buy something that looks like this... This is a basic digital piano.

- Pros: -You get the sound and feel of a real piano at good price. \$500.
 -"Weighted keys" and "hammer action" are features that almost always come with these types of pianos. Please make sure your model does!
 -You can control the volume, use headphones, and connect to a computer.
- Cons: -Less reliable than acoustic pianos. They might break or malfunction after a few years.
 -The sound quality of a digital instrument will never match the responsive sound of an acoustic instrument. The sound quality is often very good, but not the best.



Why buy? If your student is committed to piano for years to come, this is a great choice. It will meet all the needs of a piano student who is learning the basics of the instrument.

Popular brands: Casio, Korg, Yamaha.

If you buy something that looks like one of these... these are acoustic (not electronic) pianos, and high-end digital pianos.



- Pros:
- The very best sound quality and “feel” on the keys.
 - Best resale values. These pianos will not lose value as quickly. Some high-end acoustic pianos have been known to appreciate over time!
 - Very durable. Acoustic pianos can last up to 100 years. Good digital pianos can last 10 - 20 years.
 - High end digital pianos have expansive sound banks (they can sound like lots of other instruments), recording capabilities, and many interactive applications with computers.
 - Acoustic pianos do not need electricity to operate.
- Cons:
- They are expensive. \$1800 and up for digital pianos. \$4000 and up for acoustic pianos. \$5000 and up for acoustic grand pianos.
 - Acoustic pianos will need to be tuned regularly. \$150 - \$300/year.
 - Acoustic pianos can not connect with headphones or computers.

Why buy? If your child is serious about piano, these instruments can handle the subtle nuances of different touches (louder, softer, longer shorter) to create a more responsive, expressive sound. Music is an art form, and these instruments do the songs the most justice. The student will connect with the music on a more personal level, if the sound is rich and vibrant. These instruments will deliver that kind of sound.

These instruments also the more visually attractive option. You can put them in a prominent place in your house and it will make the whole room look great!

Popular brands:

Acoustic: Kawai, Yamaha, Baldwin, Steinway.

Digital: Roland, Yamaha, Kawai.

Benefits of learning music



...add to the list: Creativity, Logic, Coordination, Reading Skills, Concentration, Memory, Cultural Awareness, Problem Solving and Listening Skills.

We are honored to be a part of your child's education and holistic development. We do not take our role for granted. Thank you for choosing The Piano Express!

email: office@thepianoexpress.com

phone: 703.723.5406