

Dear Parents,

Attached you will find a practice agreement for the 2013-14 school year. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and talk through goals for the year with your student. This will assist me in expectations and planning lessons to best fit the student's needs and goals. Establishing a commitment to consistent, uninterrupted practice time is so important for the best musical progress!

The student is to be responsible (unless very young) for recording the amount of time practiced each day on the assignment sheet given in each lesson. Parents, please initial the student's daily practice work as it is completed.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when setting up a practice routine:

- 1. Make practice time a daily routine.** Sit down with your child and determine when is the best time to practice. It is important that the child is involved in this decision so they don't feel forced to do it.
- 2. Keep the suggested practice times (listed below) in mind as you establish a practice routine.** Remember that the quality of the practice sessions is much more significant than the length of time spent at the piano. A focused 20-30 minutes of practice will be more beneficial than a full hour of just playing the piece over and over again without correcting mistakes.
- 3. Create a comfortable practice area for the student.** Make sure that you have proper lighting and no distractions.
- 4. Show encouragement through your words and actions.** When students hear the same piece every day, it is hard for them to notice any development. Take note of their progress and let your child know that their improvement is apparent.

Suggested Practice Times

All students are encouraged to practice 5 days per week. Remember, these are only suggestions. The most important part of practice is accomplishing goals.

1 st year beginners and 6 years or younger	20 minutes per day. Two 10-min sessions are as beneficial as one 20-min session.
2 nd year students	30 minutes per day. Two 15-min sessions are as beneficial as one 30-min session.
3 rd -5 th year students	30-45 minutes per day
6 th year students and beyond	45-60+ minutes per day