

**A Joyful Piano**  
**The home studio of Joy Tjoelker**  
**[www.ajoyfulpiano.com](http://www.ajoyfulpiano.com)**

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to read about my piano studio. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have; please email or call and leave a message. I do my best to reply within 24 hours.

## **Studio Policies**

### Parent Involvement:

One parent/caregiver must attend beginning lessons for all students for the first month. You will be the biggest cheerleader for practice in your child's life: knowing exactly what is expected will assist you in motivating your child.

### Student Responsibilities:

- Complete daily practice assignments, doing all of the work assigned.
- Be prepared for lesson by bringing all current books and binder to class.
- Keep fingernails trimmed short to ensure proper hand position and good technique.

### Missed Lessons:

- There are 31 scheduled dates for each student for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- There are NO REFUNDS and NO MAKEUP LESSONS given for missed lessons. This no refund policy includes, but is not limited to all sports, doctor appointments (unless in regards to emergency), illness unless prolonged (to be decided in discussion with teacher), parties, school scheduled events, family vacations, events that come up during the school year.
- Please make your lesson time a priority. The time is reserved for the student.
- Students are encouraged to attend lessons even if they have colds. Each student is asked to wash their hands before every lesson in the bathroom provided for their comfort. Fever and intestinal issues would be an exception; please stay home if these are present.
- If your child is unable to attend a lesson, please notify me by phone, text or email as soon as possible.
- The studio follows the local school district weather policies. In the event of your school's closure due to weather, announcements will be made over local radio and television stations. However, if you feel you can make it safely to the studio, I will be happy to teach the lesson. Weather cancellations will be made up in June/July 2020.
- If I am ever unable to give your child a lesson due to unforeseen circumstances, I will notify you as soon as possible and credit your next month's account.

### Books:

- Piano Books – I will purchase books for your child for lessons. The student will need 2-4 new books (\$7-\$10 each) approximately every 6-8 months, depending on their progress. Supplement books are added as needed. You will be billed for the piano books on the following month's invoice. There are no refunds for piano books.
- I provide a 3 ring binder for each student that can be used from year to year if well cared for. I will provide the assignment sheets and other papers for the binder. No extra charge for these.

#### The Piano:

- You are advised to have a piano or full-sized keyboard (88 keys) for practice. The piano should be tuned at least once a year. Keyboards do not need tuning. If your child is practicing on a smaller keyboard, please plan to purchase a full-size, weighted keyboard in the near future. The techniques are very different from keyboard to actual acoustic piano.

#### Calendar:

- You will find the current calendar for 2019-20 lessons at [ajoyfulpiano.com](http://ajoyfulpiano.com).

#### Tuition Rates:

- Lessons are scheduled for the full academic year – September through June.
- Tuition is based on enrollment and not attendance. Payment of tuition reserves a time slot for your private lesson.
- Tuition is due on 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. You will receive an invoice via email on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month that is due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. Invoices not paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month will accrue a late fee of \$10. Invoices not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be subject to additional late fees and penalties.
- The studio accepts checks, cash, credit cards, and debit cards. If you choose to pay with check or cash, you will receive a 3.5% discount. You must let us know in advance of the month if you wish to pay with check or cash to ensure that we accurately reflect the discount on your invoice.
- 30 minute lessons are \$99.36/month per student.
- 40 minute lessons are \$130.41/month per student.

#### What does tuition cover?

- One on one time reserved with the student.
- Time spent in preparation for the student.
- Trips to multiple music stores, lesson planning, development of curriculum.
- Bookkeeping, bank costs.
- Licensing costs to operate a registered business in Washington State.
- Recital costs and preparations: programs, refreshments, facility rental.
- Professional organization memberships. Memberships are maintained to enhance my teaching skills.
- Professional journals - Publications to assist me in keeping current on new teaching materials and trends.
- Studio expenses - Copying, computer software, incentive programs, instrument tuning, repairs.
- Music books used in lesson that are not purchased by student.
- Continuing education - Lessons and classes that keep me current on methods and techniques.
- Book and music club memberships.
- Funds needed to keep the physical space for lessons: water, heat, lights, garbage
- Funding teacher retirement fund.

#### Discontinuing Lessons:

- If you or your child wish to discontinue lessons, let me know as soon as possible. I require one month's notice and payment. I would like to end lessons on as positive a note as we can, so letting me know at least 4 weeks out will assist me in getting your child to a good stopping place. Please let me know via e-mail or in person if you would like to discontinue lessons. All unused checks will be returned to parent at last lesson.