

Benjamin Cole Piano Studio Information

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Benjamin Cole Piano Studio is run much like a private school, with tuition rates based on enrollment—not attendance—for the entire semester. Tuition for the semester is divided into equal monthly installments (see Tuition Rates, p. 4) and is paid via automatic credit/debit card withdrawal. Monthly payments begin on the first of the month prior to each semester.

NOTE: Tuition DOES cover the cost of books. (see *What Tuition Covers* for more details)

Accepted Payment Methods for Tuition: Cash | Venmo | Paypal

** Enrollment in Benjamin Cole Piano Studio is a full-semester commitment and all payments are nonrefundable. **

Tuition Rates

Lesson Type	Lesson time (per week)	Price per Lesson	Fall Semester Price (Aug – Dec 18 Lessons)	Spring Semester Price (Jan – May 20 Lessons)
Beginner Book Level 1 and 2	25 minutes	\$15	\$270	\$300
Intermediate Book Level 3 and 4	35 minutes	\$25	\$450	\$500
Advanced Book Level 5 and 6	50 minutes	\$35	\$630	\$700

If students begin lessons partway through a Semester, Tuition rates will be prorated.

Fall Semester: August – December (18 lessons)

Spring Semester: January – May (20 lessons)

Lessons are not typically held during the summer break to allow students to enjoy family time, and planned vacations.

What Tuition Covers

- ✎ Designated weekly time slot
- ✎ Recital participation
- ✎ Performance Classes
- ✎ Research and exploration of ideas for new and innovative practice strategies which accommodate the specific needs of each student
- ✎ Development of teaching materials: assignment sheets, worksheets, games, etc.
- ✎ Incentive programs
- ✎ Recital costs, preparation, and repertoire planning
- ✎ Music lending library - including all lesson materials

STUDIO POLICIES

Attendance

All students are expected to attend their lessons every week, on time. The teacher is not responsible for any time lost due to tardiness. A student who does not attend a lesson will simply miss the instruction time of that lesson. Your tuition reserves you a weekly time slot and benefits within the studio (see *What Tuition Covers*). Please contact the teacher if you will be missing a lesson. In the rare event that the teacher should cancel, the lesson will be made up at a mutually determined time.

Parking: You may park anywhere on the driveway (preferred) or alongside a non-painted curb, close to the residence. Please knock upon arrival and wait quietly until any other lessons are completed.

Drop-off/Pick-up: Parents who drop off their child for a lesson must be on time for pick-up. The lesson will end at the scheduled time, regardless of the student's arrival time. It is recommended that you arrive five minutes before the end of the lesson to go over your child's progress and practice assignment with the teacher (highly preferred, see *Parent Participation*)

Holidays: Most major holidays are observed as communicated by the teacher. Classes will not be held on Major holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. If a student/family's scheduled lesson time falls on any other holiday, it is the responsibility of the student/family to communicate with the teacher their attendance plans for that lesson in question.

Practice & Preparation

All students must practice at least six days a week. The minimum daily practice requirements for beginners are listed below. However, everyone will have individual practice requirements—as determined by the teacher—based on skill level and capability.

Ages 3-5 - 20 minutes

Ages 8-9 - 30 minutes

Ages 12-13 - 40 minutes

Ages 6-7 - 25 minutes

Ages 10-11 - 35 minutes

Ages 14+ - 45 minutes

Assignment journals should be followed each day of practice, making sure to cover all topics equally throughout the week. All aspects of the current assignment—including theory—qualify as practice time. However, previous assignments that

have already been passed off, do not count as practice time. Students are highly encouraged to play previously completed assignments, pieces, and songs in effort to achieve complete mastery of the material. As noted by your teacher, previous assignments will be presented at random to be played in effort to test memory, mastery, and overall musical achievement.

Students are expected and encouraged to practice with a metronome, even though it is not usually written on the assignment sheet. In order to pass off a piece, you must be able to play it with and without a metronome. Those who use a metronome diligently always show results far beyond those who do not use them.

Parent Participation

Parent participation is crucial to a child's success at the piano. Parents are highly encouraged to attend lessons with their child each week. This will ensure proper practicing at home, and will also allow inexperienced parents to learn the material along with their child. Parents should sit with their children at the piano and help them with their practice assignments. To facilitate focused and effective practice, schedule your practice at times during which there will be minimal distractions (such as any electronic noise via all devices, other people being in the room, etc.)

Parents: please silence your phones while attending the lesson/s or your children.

Required Materials

- ☞ Books: all books used during lessons will be provided by the teacher. Any and all books that are lent by the teacher to be taken home by the student are the student's responsibility to maintain and keep in good condition. The replacement of any lost materials will be the responsibility of the student.
- ☞ Student Notebook (provided by teacher)
- ☞ Book Bag
- ☞ Home piano for practice (electronic or acoustic)
- ☞ Practice Aids: Sticky notes, Crayola Erasable Twistables Colored Pencils, and any other recommended materials to fit the students' needs

Waiting Area

The living room is provided as a waiting area for students and siblings. Siblings are

welcome to attend lessons with students so long as they can remain quiet and do not distract from the lesson. If siblings become a distraction from the lessons, they may be asked not to attend anymore. Please clean up after yourselves and leave the waiting area in good condition. Young children must be supervised. Crayons are provided for coloring. Please do not allow your children to bring any pens or markers.

Group Lessons

Group lessons will be held once or twice throughout the semester. Having group lessons creates a “club” experience, much like team sports. Students will look forward to seeing their group members and being part of a community. At group lessons, students may learn about composers and music history, practice ear-training skills, and/or play music games to reinforce concepts. Students may also have the opportunity to perform for each other, discuss performance strategies, and learn how to give and receive constructive criticism. Parents do not attend group lessons. Group lessons will take place in lieu of private lessons. There will be no private lessons during Group Weeks. Group lesson times will be determined two or three weeks prior to each Group Week.

Bach Bucks Incentive Program

Students will be rewarded with “Bach Bucks” each week for such things as practicing, completing assignments, achieving personal goals, etc. They can then be used to buy prizes from the teacher’s “Bach Bucks Store.” This motivates children to work on specific instructions given by the teacher with the potential to enhance the learning process.

Recitals

Students are given the opportunity to participate in two recitals each year. Studio recitals are held semiannually, in the spring and the fall. Performance attire is business casual, unless otherwise specified.

All music is recommended to be memorized and all preparation requirements must be met in order to perform in the recital.

Recital Attendance: All participants and their guests are required to stay for the entire recital.

Recital Preparation

Practice Performances: In preparation for recitals, four (4) practice performances are required of each student. These practice performances are done on your own and may be for anybody other than household members.

Performance Classes: Before each recital, there will be a scheduled performance class at the studio. The purpose of these classes is to gain experience performing in front of an audience, as well as giving the teacher an opportunity to preview your performance. Every student must participate in at least one (1) Performance Class in order to play in the recital.

Discontinuation of Lessons

Enrollment in lessons is a full-semester commitment. The student and/or parent for any reason may terminate lessons. However, a refund will not be given for any scheduled lessons within the semester, regardless of the reason for termination, and the student or parent will be responsible for all payments agreed to upon enrollment. The teacher may terminate lessons for any reason, in which case the tuition will be pro-rated up to the last lesson taken by the student, and any necessary refunds will be issued.

Students who do not wish to continue lessons for the following semester must notify the teacher in writing at least five days prior to the tuition due date, and should be sure they receive confirmation from the teacher. Tuition is due the month before the start of the semester.

Notification must be given by **May 26** if the student does not wish to enroll in Fall Semester, or by **November 25** if the student does not wish to enroll in Spring Semester.