

Pre-College Piano Program Handbook

The Purdue University Fort Wayne Pre-College Piano Program provides high-quality piano instruction to young students through grade 12. Our goal is to help each student realize their full artistic potential by developing their musicianship and their proficiency at the instrument in a nurturing environment.

INSTRUCTORS

Piano Program instructors are Purdue University School of Music piano faculty and selected advanced students as well as professional community musicians. For a current faculty listing, please visit the CAA website (pfw.edu/caa).

STUDENTS

Regular Piano Program students are those who take weekly lessons in both fall and spring, averaging 15 lessons per semester, and a minimum of 6 lessons during the summer. Special arrangements for less-frequent lessons may be made with the student's instructor on a case-by-case basis.

PARENTS

The support of the student's parents (or other caregivers) is an essential part of his or her success in piano study. Generally, parents should plan to attend lessons of young children (up to about age 12) and supervise their daily home practice, ensuring that they do their best to cover lesson assignments. (Note that this does not require knowing how to play the piano.) Parents are welcome to attend the lessons of older students as well, if desired. Please feel free to communicate with the instructor about any questions or concerns and to check on the student's progress.

LESSON ATTENDANCE

The lesson time mutually agreed upon between instructor and parent/student at the start of the semester is reserved for that student alone, and should be adhered to. Regular lesson attendance is expected and crucial for student progress. Students should arrive promptly at their lesson time, and should bring all of their lesson materials. Except in rare instances, lesson time missed due to tardiness will be forfeited.

There will be no credit or refund of tuition for lessons missed by the student. If the student must miss a lesson due to illness, family emergency, a required school/church obligation, inclement weather, or other unavoidable circumstance, the parent should contact the instructor as soon as possible to see if the student can come for a lesson at an alternate time, up to a limit of 2 lessons per semester. Make-up lessons beyond two per semester that are due to student/parent cancellations are at the discretion of the teacher, and should never be taken for granted.

Lessons missed by the teacher will be made up, if possible. When this is not possible, a lesson credit will be given for the subsequent month.

LESSON WARM UP

It is recommended that students warm up before their lessons, as possible. Students may use one of the open School of Music practice rooms, if available. Note that locked grand piano practice rooms are not available for lesson warm up.

DAILY PRACTICE

Daily practice is an absolute must for progress. The instructor will advise the student and parent about efficient practice strategies and length of daily practice sessions.

An acoustic piano in good working order and tuned at least once a year (two tunings a year are recommended) is essential to develop good sound production and touch. An electronic piano may be used until an acoustic instrument can be acquired, although this is not ideal.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner within the School of Music facilities. This includes talking in a quiet tone of voice and not engaging in rowdy or disruptive behavior in hallways, not running in hallways, and remaining quiet and attentive at any concert/recital they are performing in or attending as audience members.

No food or drink should be brought into any practice room, studio, classroom, rehearsal room, or performance hall.

LISTENING

An essential part of music study is to listen to music, both in live and recorded form. We highly recommend that parents and students take advantage of the many concerts offered on campus (free to all students ages 18 and under) as well as those of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and other musical organizations in our region. Other valuable resources are our local, 24-hour classical music radio station (WBNI, 94.1) and YouTube (feel free to consult with your instructor for recommendations). Exposure to a wide variety of musical styles and genres is most beneficial.

END-OF-SEMESTER RECITALS

Public performance is an integral and essential part of piano study. Regular Piano Program students have the opportunity to perform in recitals that take place at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Pieces are to be memorized, except when playing a duet or other ensemble piece. Attendance and performance at a recital rehearsal is required to perform at the recital. The dates for recitals and rehearsals will be announced as soon as possible each semester.

YEARLY EVALUATIONS

Students are encouraged to participate in a yearly outside evaluation. In addition to providing a performance experience, the following programs allow students to test other aspects of their musicianship, such as technical skills, music theory, aural skills, and sight reading (note that these vary by program).

- Achievement in Music (AIM) - <https://nimta.weebly.com/aim-festival.html>
- Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) - <https://www.rcmusic.com/>
- American College of Musicians (National Guild of Piano Teachers) - <https://pianoguild.com/>

Talk with your teacher about possible participation.

COMPETITIONS

Many students in the Piano Program choose to participate in piano competitions. These can serve as a performance goal and provide valuable performance experience. Discuss this with your teacher if interested.

- Indiana Music Teachers Association – Hoosier Auditions (<https://indmta.org>)
- Gene Marcus Piano Competition (<https://www.pfw.edu/departments/cvpa/caa/piano-competition.html>)
- Music Teachers National Association – National Performance Competitions (mtna.org)
- Stickley Piano Competition (<https://www.sbamta.org/stickley-piano-competition>)
- Young Hoosier Piano Competition (<https://www.pianosolutions.net/young-hoosier-piano-competition-information>)
- Edvard Grieg Society of the Great Lakes Piano Competition (<http://greatlakesgrieg.weebly.com/>)
- Sejong Cultural Society Music Competition (<https://www.sejongculturalsociety.org/index.php>)
- Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition (<http://www.carmelklavier.com/>)
- Fort Wayne Philharmonic Young Artist Competition (fwphil.org)
- Indianapolis Symphony Maurer Young Musicians Contest (<https://www.indianapolissymphony.org/>)
- Marion Philharmonic Concerto Competition (<https://mpomarion.org/>)

OTHER PERFORMANCE/LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Group lessons or performance classes, as announced
- ISSMA (check with your school music instructor)
- Gene Marcus Piano Camp and Festival (<https://www.pfw.edu/departments/cvpa/caa/piano-camp.html>)
- Northeast Indiana Music Teachers Association Events (Germanfest recital, Von Maur Christmas performance, Performance Parties, Masterclasses, etc.)
- Performances at retirement homes, churches, and informal events

PAYMENT

Students must register prior to their first lesson and by the first of the month for each monthly payment. See the CAA website or call 260-481-6977 for details.

LESSON TERMINATION

Frequent lack of preparation for lessons, frequent lesson cancellations/tardiness, or behavioral problems are grounds for dismissal from the Program.

Please acknowledge that you have read this handbook by signing below.

Student signature/date

Parent or guardian signature/date