

## CAPE ANN PIANO STUDIO POLICY & CONTRACT 2022–23

Thank you for choosing me as your piano teacher! To ensure that your child gets the most effective and creative teaching possible, I have established the following policies.

This and all other forms are on the website under “Studio Policy”

### CALENDAR

The teaching calendar comprises 42 lesson weeks from September through August. No lessons are given during public-school vacation weeks. There are 5 “flex” weeks that may be used by the instructor (see Flex Weeks below) during the teaching year. The calendar will be posted on the website.

### TUITION/FEEES

Tuition is based on the yearly calendar; payments are made in 12 monthly payment installments and cover the *year* of lessons. Late fees are charged for late payments. (See Tuition/Fees form on the website for more information.)

### MISSED LESSONS

You may have a lesson as a reschedule *during my regular teaching hours if there's a space* in my schedule available for that week. If there isn't a space in that week, you can “bank” it for later, meaning, you can take it in another week but *only during my regular teaching hours if there's a space!* No reschedules during weekends, school vacations, or any other time outside the teaching hours of the instructor.

It is up to parents to remember their misses, I will not be keeping track. Please refrain from overusing this benefit.

I will email you all the teaching hours by the start of the teaching year (September). Lesson Swap Sheets (see below) will also be emailed once the schedule is set (and will also have the teaching hours listed). It might be October until I send the Swap Sheets, I like to wait until all students are in their scheduled time slots.

All no-shows are forfeited lessons with no makeups. If the teacher misses a lesson it will be made up, with flex time days or with a tuition credit.

No makeup for lessons canceled *the day of* the lesson *except* for illness, serious family matters, etc., *and*, if on a sports team, the meet, game, etc., is rescheduled *that day*. No exceptions if you forgot to tell me the day before.

\*\*\*If you cancel your lesson *on the day of your lesson, do not send me an email*. I often don't have time to check my email when I start teaching. *Please call or send me a text.*\*\*\*

**LESSON TIME SLOT** Once your scheduled lesson time is in place, it is expected that *piano study will have priority*. Be sure there are no conflicts with the lesson time you choose! Like other schools and after-school programs, such as sports, I am on a set schedule, too. *By setting a time for lessons, and sticking with it to the best of your ability, your child will better understand the commitment to music study.*

*Remember, a weekly lesson time for the school year is a purchase of teacher and studio time, prepared in advance to be free from interruptions and distractions, and reserved exclusively for students each week—that time slot remains committed to the student whether the student uses the time or not.*

**Lesson Swap Sheet**

If you have a conflict you know about in advance, you may first find out if I have had any cancellations for the week, or you may use the Swap Sheet to exchange lesson times with another student. This exchange is between you and the other parent; just inform me of the change, so that Addie doesn't walk in when I'm expecting Johnny!

**Changing a Time Slot Once It Is Set**

Should you need a permanent time slot change after it is set in the fall, contact me but *I cannot guarantee time slot changes during the year, it depends on availability*. Note: it must also be during my teaching hours.

**COVID/Illness**

*If your child is showing cold/flu-like symptoms do not bring him or her to the lesson. We can still do a check-in lesson or a full lesson depending on how your child is feeling via Zoom or you can use the reschedule policy above under "Missed Lessons."*

**Bad Weather**

I call it on the day of. Often, even if there is a snow day at school, the roads are fine by the afternoon; if this is the case, lessons will still be held. I may also schedule lessons for earlier in the day, when possible, if school has been cancelled and it is safe to travel. If there's electricity we can have a Zoom lesson.

**"FLEX" WEEKS**

Included in the annual calendar are 5 flex weeks for use by the instructor for illness/personal time/vacation during the teaching year (September–August). This is time off that you are not being charged for as I will make sure that I am scheduled to teach 42 lessons during the year as outlined in this policy.

**ENDING LESSONS****Dismissal of Student by the Teacher**

I reserve the right to terminate lessons with a student immediately for any or all of the following reasons:

- Uncooperative or repeatedly disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior toward me during lessons.
- Lack of progress due to insufficient effort to practice minimally on a regular basis.
- Parents failing to meet payment obligations or other unresolvable conflicts.
- No digital piano by 3 months' time, or regular use of digital/acoustic piano to practice, after student has shown s/he/they are serious about learning.

**Discontinuing of Lessons by the Student**

Should you wish your child to discontinue lessons, it is my sincere hope you will make this decision thoughtfully with discussion between teacher, parent, and student so that lessons can end on a positive note with good closure. If you decide to discontinue lessons, one month's notice is required; if this is not received, one month's payment is required in lieu of notice. This policy is strictly enforced.

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*Please note that this policy is in accord with recommended professional policies of the North Shore Piano Teachers Guild and the Music Teachers National Association. Cape Ann Piano Studio and Julie Cleveland are released from any liabilities, accidents, or injuries that the enrolled student/family may incur when participating in piano lessons, piano parties or recitals, or local music teacher association events.*

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## CAPE ANN PIANO STUDIO CONTRACT

All parents are required to sign below that they have read and agreed to all of the terms of this policy, as well as to the Tuition and Fees information. All students sign the contract to commit to being cooperative and respectful, paying careful attention to their assignments, and to follow as best they can a reasonable and regular practice schedule.

Please return to me at the first lesson, and I will make a copy of this page and give it back to you at the second lesson. Please keep a copy for your records.

**PARENTS:** I have read and agree to the above Studio Policy, Tuition/Fees and all other forms and wish to sign up \_\_\_\_\_ for the 2022–2023 (September–August) teaching year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT(S):** I agree to follow all the rules that apply to me, pay careful attention to my assignments, and commit to a regular practice schedule.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME COMPUTER/DEVICE INFO** Student (young students) Access, circle all that apply:  
PC iMac Laptop iPad/Tablet iPhone/Android Other notes:

**PERFORMANCES** I would be interested in having my child participate in recitals sponsored by NSPTG (North Shore Piano Teachers Guild) and other performing events.    yes    no

**GET-TOGETHERS** Would you be interested in ever hosting a group lesson/piano party in your home?    yes    no

**PERMISSIONS** Do you grant permission for Julie Cleveland to use clips of teaching/performance videos/photos to be used on CAPS website, Facebook/Instagram studio page, and CAPS YouTube channel for teaching purposes only? (No identifying information is ever used in postings of videos/photos.)    yes    no