

Prince of Peace Piano Studio Policy 2023-2024

Welcome to the Prince of Peace Piano Studio, and to a fantastic year of making beautiful music! Whether your children have years of musical experience or are new beginners, we are embarking on an adventurous year of learning! Please read this policy carefully.

Benefits of Music

Through the language of music, we can express thoughts, feelings, and beauty, while bringing glory to God and enriching the lives of many. Students who learn music develop life-long skills allowing for participation in musical activities at home, school, church, and the community. Playing a musical instrument engages both sides of the brain, heightening aural, visual, and kinesthetic awareness. The discipline required to learn and practice an instrument impacts children's lives and applies to other areas of study.

Meet the Teachers

Mrs. Heckman is a composer, arranger, and pianist. She received her B.A. in Music Theory/Composition (with focus on piano) from Wisconsin Lutheran College, before attending Belmont University to earn her M.M. Composition. After working for Word Music in Nashville, she turned to freelance work. She has over a decade of experience teaching piano. Her two youngest children, Tyler (5th grade) and Walker (4th grade) attend Prince of Peace. Mrs. Heckman is also the running coach at Prince of Peace.

Mrs. Sehloff is a pianist and a teacher. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a music minor from Martin Luther College. She has taught middle school for 13 years, as well as teaching piano lessons after school occasionally. Mrs. Sehloff helps accompany the school and church as an active member of Prince of Peace.

Lesson procedures: Lessons will happen at the same scheduled time every week. Students will be assigned a piano or guitar teacher based on scheduling needs. Lessons will take place on the grand piano or guitar in the Prince of Peace sanctuary, (or in the library in extenuating circumstances). Mrs. Heckman and Mrs. Sehloff will do their utmost to help every student succeed in lessons; however, they reserve the right to terminate lessons upon failure to practice or otherwise meet the standards of the piano studio. No refund is guaranteed if lessons are terminated due to lack of parent involvement, failure to practice, tardiness, consistently forgetting books, missed lessons, etc. Students are expected to bring their music books (and guitar if applicable) to school on the day of their lesson every week. If students fail to bring their books, they will be sent back to their classroom without a lesson, and parents will be notified later in the day. Lessons WILL NOT be taught if students forget their books, and no make up lesson will be provided.

Practicing: Practicing is a requirement for every student. Consistent, at-home practice helps students achieve their goals and make regular progress; furthermore, parental involvement is imperative for younger children. Students are generally expected to practice the length of their lesson (30 minute lesson=30 minutes of daily practice). For a new beginner, practicing expectations begin at 4-5 times per week, with a minimum of 15 minutes of practice time. Parents are expected to work at home to help the student develop a consistent daily routine. Committing to practice a minimum of 4-5 times per week is a REQUIREMENT for admission into the PoP music studio. Failure to practice at home may result in the

teacher contacting the parents, and if this brings no change, Mrs. Heckman and Mrs. Sehloff reserve the right to terminate the students' lessons, with no refund provided.

Instrument: Students must own or have regular access to practicing on a weighted key digital keyboard or acoustic piano before beginning lessons. This includes electronic keyboards, upright pianos, and grand pianos.

Tuition and books: Tuition covers individual lessons, lesson planning, continuing education and professional development, professional membership fees, and small-business operating expenses. Students are responsible for the additional cost of books and supplemental materials.

Performing: Each spring and fall semester, all students will have the opportunity to perform in a studio recital. Additional performance opportunities are available through group lessons, playing at church, and recital opportunities. Mrs. Heckman and Mrs. Sehloff will update families as future performance opportunities arise.

Makeup lessons: Students are responsible for attending their lessons during their scheduled time slot. If a student misses or cancels a lesson for any reason, that lesson will not be made up. Mrs. Sehloff and Mrs. Heckman are allowed one missed lesson per student, per semester, in case of family emergency or illness. This canceled lesson will not be made up. All other lessons that the piano teacher misses will be made up, or a substitute teacher will be arranged.

Weather Cancellations: There will be makeup lessons for weather cancellations, scheduled at the teacher's discretion.

Refunds: Refunds are generally not provided. Notification for termination of lessons must be given 30 days prior. Extenuating circumstances such as moving or prolonged illness may or may not warrant a refund. Illness, vacations, and sport activities will not warrant a refund. Mrs. Heckman and Mrs. Sehloff reserve the right to terminate lessons due to failure to adhere to the studio policy, consistent failure to practice or come prepared to lessons, or gross misbehavior. A refund will not be provided in case of termination of lessons.

Contact Mrs. Heckman and Mrs. Sehloff:

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