

Stephanie Steele Piano Studio

(360) 939-1086 • stephanie@pianowithsteph.org • 721 Jadwin Ave, Richland, WA

Welcome! I am excited for your child to start piano lessons! Learning to play piano is a very rewarding experience and can be enjoyed throughout their life. Before we get started, let's make sure all expectations are communicated.

The 2024-25 session starts Monday, September 9, 2024, and ends Thursday, August 21, 2025

COST OF LESSONS: All students pay a \$35 materials and insurance fee at the beginning of the year. This goes toward teaching supplies, music, and insurance. I will supply all books/materials throughout the year.

- 30-minute lessons: \$105 monthly
- 45-minute lessons: \$155 monthly

Tuition is due between September 2024 and August 2025. You are paying for 42 lessons over the whole year split up into 12 monthly payments.

You will have 35 lessons during the school year between Monday, September 9, 2024 and Thursday, June 5, 2025. Summer lessons will start on June 16, 2025. Your June/July/August tuition pays for 7 summer lessons, which are required. Summer lessons are scheduled flexibly according to both of our schedules – you will be able to sign up for lesson times online.

Lesson tuition is based on a \$60/hour rate. The monthly lesson tuition is the same whether there are 3, 4, or 5 lessons in a month. There will be no lessons:

November 25 - 29, 2024: Thanksgiving Week

December 23 - Jan 3, 2024: Christmas Break

March 31 – April 4, 2024: Spring Break

*I do my best to honor the above dates, but if life happens and I take some unexpected, additional time off, those lessons will be made up between June - August. Rest assured, you will get all 42 lessons between September 2024 and August 2025.

PAYMENT OF TUITION: Payments are due on the 1st of each month. **You are paying in advance to reserve your weekly lesson time.** Payments should be set up online during registration to be paid automatically on the 1st of every month.

The one-time materials and insurance fee that is due at the beginning of the year is paid online when you register.

GROUP LESSONS: All private students will participate in several group lessons throughout the year. These group lessons will be opportunities for students to perform pieces for each other and participate in fun learning games together. On the weeks that we have group lessons, there will be no private lessons. Students will be grouped according to age group and scheduled to come in at the same time for a group lesson. When registering, you should fill out the Google Poll to let me know what times work for your child to attend the group lessons. I will let students and parents know well in advance which weeks we will be holding group lessons.

MAKEUP LESSONS: Tuition is based on enrollment, not attendance. Lessons that you miss will not be made up. Your monthly tuition reserves a specific lesson time each week for your student. If you must cancel a lesson, there will be no refund. ***You will receive all the lessons you pay for only if you show up for your scheduled time each week.*** It's the same if you signed up your child for dance lessons at a studio – you would pay a monthly fee and wouldn't get a refund if your child missed a rehearsal.

CANCELING OR RESCHEDULING A LESSON: If you have an illness or a one-time conflict with your regular lesson time, please contact me to let me know you will not be attending.

IF YOU'RE CHILD IS FEELING SICK: I will be happy to do a lesson with them over Zoom or Facetime. Please do not send them to lessons if they have thrown up or had a fever within 24 hours of their lesson time, or if they are coughing, sneezing, and have a very runny nose. I want to make sure everyone stays healthy and isn't picking up germs when they come to lessons. Plus, if I get a sick, I don't have a substitute, and it's hard to make up lessons with a busy teaching studio.

SUMMER LESSONS: Summer lessons are *required*, as explained in the "Cost of Lessons" section above. It is important to keep up the momentum we gained during the school year during the summer months so we aren't starting over again every September. It is also important that I can support myself financially, so I can continue to teach and support your child's musical education. That means I do need to work all 12 months of the year. During the summer months, you are able to schedule flexibly according to your vacation plans and it is easy to make sure you get all the lessons you are paying for.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Students are required to participate in at least four performances throughout the school year. They are welcome to participate in more than four if they would like. There will be multiple opportunities through recitals, coffee shop performances for the older kids, "piano parties" for the younger kids, and more. The Christmas Performance at the nursing home in December and the Spring Studio Recital in May are required for all students, but each student will need to choose at least two additional performance opportunities.

BE PROMPT FOR YOUR LESSON: You will receive only the time remaining if you are late.

PRACTICING: Daily practice is required. The amount of practice will be discussed individually with each student/parent. Failure to practice will result in dismissal. Parental support and dedication are necessary to achieve this requirement. *For children ages 10 and under*, parents are especially expected to help students remember to practice and stay focused. **If you are signing your child up for piano lessons, you are also committing yourself to help them practice.**

LESSON MATERIALS:

- If they have previously taken piano lessons, please bring any music they have previously used to the first lesson so I can get an idea of their playing level
- I will be providing lesson books and practice materials
- I will be providing a binder with practice sheets for notes about assignments and tracking practice time

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY:

- **Read the practice sheet in their binder after each lesson** so that you will know what goals the student is expected to work toward that week.
- **Read the monthly newsletter.** This will have updates about lessons, upcoming events, recitals, and practice tips
- **Buy a metronome.** I can send you a link to one online for purchase if you don't have one
- Call, text, or email me with questions or to discuss your child's progress
- Remind them to practice 😊

Parent involvement is key to a child's success – especially when they are young. It's important to ask them about their practice and make sure they are doing it. Even if they complain about it sometimes – a child will enjoy lessons more if they are progressing and that only happens when they practice. A 30-minute lesson every week will do nothing if they don't practice at home. If you are signing up a child for piano lessons – you essentially signing up *yourself* for piano lessons, because you *will* need to remind them to practice every day.

DISCONTINUING LESSONS: Every student stops taking lessons at some point. Ideally, this decision is made thoughtfully with plenty of discussion between the teacher, parent, and student so that lessons can cease with a positive sense of closure. **For this reason, the teacher requires one month's notice in writing prior to discontinuing lessons.** Note: At the discretion of the teacher, students may be asked to discontinue lessons at any time if they have unpaid tuition, an excess amount of absences/unprepared lessons, or if they show a lack of interest.

BIANNUAL PRICE INCREASE: Every two years, I will raise my teaching rates 3-5% to adjust to the rate of inflation and competitive wages.

MY QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE: B.A. in Music, Emphasis in Jazz Piano – BYU-Idaho. Member of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).