

2026-2027 BA Piano Studio Policy

TEACHING PROGRAMS

We offer piano and general music instruction through two different teaching methods: the Suzuki Method and the Traditional Method.

Suzuki Method:

Students 3 years old and above are accepted into the Suzuki program. This program is designed for students whose families are committed to accompanying the child to lessons and implementing the teacher's instructions and ideas for improvement at home. The program emphasizes learning music by listening before learning to read it, similar to learning one's native language.*

Traditional Method:

The traditional program is for students of all ages who want traditional instruction and intend to read music from the beginning. Parents or caregivers are welcome to attend lessons but are not required.

*For more on Suzuki's teaching philosophy, visit <https://suzukiassociation.org/about/suzuki-method/>

TEACHING RHYTHM & CALENDAR

New for 2026-2027:

Our program now includes a blend of individual lessons and independent practice weeks to deepen learning and build musical independence.

Teaching Rhythm:

- Weeks 1–3 of each month: Individual lessons (as always)
- Week 4 of each month: Independent Practice Week

During Independent Practice Weeks, all students receive a structured assignment designed to reinforce and expand what we've been working on together. These assignments might include recording and self-assessment, listening to professional performances, focused technique practice, creative exploration, sight-reading challenges, performance preparation, or rhythm games.

Annual Schedule:

- All students receive 36 weeks of comprehensive piano education: 28 individual lessons plus 8 structured independent practice weeks.
- Lessons run from September through May.
- Scheduled breaks: Thanksgiving week, Winter break (December 25–January 3), Spring break
- Summer break: June through August

LESSON LENGTH OPTIONS

Individual lessons are available in 30-minute, 45-minute, and 60-minute time slots.

TUITION & BILLING

Annual Tuition

Tuition is calculated based on 36 weeks of piano education (28 individual lessons + 8 independent practice weeks). Both individual lessons and independent practice weeks are integral parts of the curriculum and contribute to your student's growth.

Payment Schedule:

Lessons are billed in 9 equal monthly payments (September through May), due on the first lesson of each month.

Payment Methods:

You can pay by check, credit card, or Zelle. Venmo payments are possible but discouraged because they are difficult to track and must be transferred to the bank to be tracked.

REGISTRATION & CONTRACT

At the start of each year, we email a Registration Form to each student or family. The Registration Form specifies the payment amount.

The Registration Form must be filled out and returned via email (with the email subject changed to the family name) to serve as a contract between the student and the teacher.

ATTENDANCE & EXPECTATIONS

Individual Lessons:

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled individual lessons.
- If a student needs to miss a lesson due to illness, sports commitments, or family travel, please notify the teacher as soon as possible by text or email.

Independent Practice Weeks:

- Students are expected to complete the independent practice assignment during the designated week.
- Completion of these assignments is an integral part of the curriculum and supports long-term progress.

Extended Schedule Changes:

If a schedule change is required for an extended period (e.g., several weeks or months), it can be honored with the teacher's agreement. Please communicate any extended absences or scheduling needs as early as possible.

MISSED LESSONS & RESCHEDULING

If a Student Misses a Lesson:

- If a student is ill but able to play piano, the lesson can be conducted online (via Zoom, FaceTime, or similar).
- If a student needs to miss a lesson, they can reschedule the time slot within the same week by texting or emailing the teacher (subject to availability).
- One bonus make-up lesson per year is available for students who miss a lesson due to illness or emergency. Please schedule this make-up lesson with the instructor.

If the Teacher Cancels a Lesson:

- If the teacher is sick or unable to teach, we will reschedule the lesson or issue a refund.

Independent Practice Weeks:

- Independent practice weeks are part of the curriculum and are not rescheduled or refunded. If a student cannot complete an independent practice assignment due to extenuating circumstances, please communicate with the teacher.

DISCONTINUING LESSONS

If you need to discontinue piano lessons, the student or parent must communicate the decision to the teacher one month before the expected end date.

The tuition for that final month is still expected to be paid. During this period, the student is welcome and encouraged to attend lessons as usual.

STUDIO CULTURE & EXPECTATIONS

Practice:

Regular practice between lessons is essential for progress. We will discuss recommended daily practice times with each student based on age, level, and goals.

Parental Support (for students under 18):

Parents and caregivers play a vital role in supporting their child's musical journey. This includes:

- Encouraging consistent practice at home
- Attending recitals and studio events
- Reviewing independent practice assignments with younger students as needed
- Communicating any concerns or questions with the teacher

Recitals:

All students are expected to participate in studio recitals (typically held in late spring). Suzuki students are also expected to participate in recitals offered by the Suzuki Piano Teachers Guild (SPTG) and the Suzuki Association of Minnesota (SAM).

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you have any questions about this policy, the new teaching rhythm, scheduling, or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Email: baguerrevere@mac.com — Text/Call: 952-270-8258

I'm here to support your musical journey and ensure every student has a rewarding, enriching experience at BA Piano Studio. — With warm regards, Beatriz