

Piano Studio Policies
Jill S. Gubler, NCTM
1164 Cannon Dr./Farmington, UT 84025
Phone: 801-448-8054
www.igubler.wordpress.com

LENGTH OF COURSE

School-year Program

Lessons during the school year begin in September and end in May. I offer a **thirty-five-event course** throughout the school year. An event is defined as:

a piano lesson, a group class, a recital, an Opening Social, etc. A typical "month" consists of 4 events. However, some months will only have 3 events and others will have 5 or 6, but it all adds up to 35 by school's end. Piano lessons follow the traditional school calendar. New students may add in during the year if there is room on my schedule. I also consult the "year-round calendar." I have included a list of days taught and days "off" for your convenience.

Lessons are 30 minutes long unless you are in a 3-student session. (not to be confused with group class). Three-student sessions consist of three students attending during the same hour; they still have private instruction. I hire a competent assistant (*an older, advanced student) who teaches theory and helps with the computer station. The student plays for me (20 minutes), has private theory instruction (w/my assistant for 20 minutes) and, finally, 20 minutes at the computer. Students who do this program get more accomplished. (More "Bang for their Buck.") It is only used with students from level one through 3B of Faber books (beginners to intermediate students). I also offer optional 45-minute lessons for more advanced students.

I encourage the students who have a 30-minute lesson to do a separate (optional) computer program, in addition to their lesson. I have them spend fifteen minutes before or after their lesson on the computer. Computer instruction includes: theory, ear-training, rhythm concepts and counting, review, review, review, etc. The younger the student (early beginner), the easier the computer program is. They are self-guided programs and the student wears earphones, so they won't bother the lesson in progress. Most students are here for 45 minutes to an hour. Siblings may come together in either program as long as they can work independently. High school students are exempt from doing computer exercises because most of them are more advanced and they are too busy! Side note: If your student is only here for 30 minutes (due to time constraints) remember that they can still log in at home and do their Music Learning Community Assignments there. Usernames and passwords are found in the student binder.

Summer program: I require 8 summer lessons to be taken during the summer months of June, July and August. Sometimes it takes a bit of creativity, but it usually works out. Families receive a calendar with my days off. You will receive an assigned day/time and then you circle the days you can come until you find 8 of them.

MUSIC

Ages 5-6: I rarely take, nor do I recommend students take lessons at this age. I have a program for this age, but I encourage parents to do Kindermusik-type programs with this age. First grade students do well if they can read and have a good attention span.

Ages 7-9:

I use the *Mayron Cole Piano Method*. This piano method is marketed nationally, and I love it! Each level has approximately 200 pages of original music, recital solos, practice sheets, rhythm exercises, theory fun sheets, music history, and favorite classics. This method is found online at www.mcpiano.com. **The cost of each level's music is in addition to tuition fees.** After the Mayron Cole beginner books, my students complete all five levels of **Faber and Faber Piano Adventures Series**. This includes: 1) a lesson book 2) a performance book 3) a technique and artistry book 4) a theory book. Older students use Hanon or Czerny Exercises for technique drills after completing Faber and Faber technique book 4. After completing the Faber Series, I use a variety of more advanced books from different genres, including some well-earned "fun songs". For example: Masterworks Classics, Celebration Series, Keith Snell and the AIM /Federation lists, etc.

I follow the state AIM program as a technique regimen.

LIBRARY/SOFTWARE FEE

Individual students will pay a non-refundable annual fee of \$40.00 August. This is a library/software/maintenance/registration fee. Each year I buy more music to share with your children to help motivate and inspire them as they choose their recital pieces. Providing a wide variety of music is a very large investment for me. This fee will help me to provide your students with top-quality music.

Paying this fee allows your child to use my music for recitals (although I highly recommend purchasing the music so your student can enjoy it for years to come.) This also helps to avoid illegal photo-copying. Additional fees will accrue ONLY if the music is lost or irreparably damaged. *The library fee also covers some of the monthly fees I pay to use online (and other) software for your students in my studio. This fee also covers the downloads of period songs I use in the studio on the iPod, iPad and Kindle.* Both of my digital pianos are in disrepair and need constant maintenance (due to the high usage) and for tuning of the acoustic pianos. This is part of the maintenance fee. Paying this fee holds your spot for fall as well.

PRACTICING

All beginning students are required to play the week's music assignment a **minimum of twice a day** until the next lesson. Parents must accept their responsibility in seeing to it that the student does the required practicing and comes prepared. *Consistent lack of practicing is grounds for dismissal.* Students in the Faber or other method books should be practicing a minimum of 30 minutes a day. Intermediate students should practice 30-45 minutes per day. Early Advanced/Advanced students: minimum 1 hour daily for great results. *If you feel your student isn't progressing well, it is probably practice-related.* Each family must assume responsibility for figuring out a consistent schedule and doing their best to stick with it.

Parents remember: **CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY**...hang in there...don't give up...it will pay off! Also, if your student plays an instrument in band or orchestra, they may be credited 30 minutes per week of extra practice time for time spent practicing the other instrument. This area will be your biggest challenge, but it pays the biggest dividends. Also note that doing theory doesn't count as practicing

GROUP CLASSES

I teach a **group class** at least four times yearly. These classes replace the regular lesson time and last one hour and fifteen minutes. We learn and review concepts in group class which we haven't time to learn during individual lessons. During each class, we touch on themes such as: music history, composers, ear training, additional theory, sight-reading, rhythm and counting, etc. Students will perform at group classes. (Either their current recital piece or a song of their choice on non-recital months)

Group classes, although fun, are a lot of work for me and all students are expected to attend. I have some wonderful games and relays that help students learn theory and rhythm concepts easier in a group setting. We go into more depth on composers, history, composing, etc. Having a break from their regular lesson gives the student an extra week to polish their current pieces and to learn to be a well-rounded musician. Group classes help students become better acquainted with one another and the friendships formed **help their performance anxiety go down significantly.**

On your calendar, the letters **GC**, stand for Group Class. Look at your calendars ahead of time for possible conflicts in your schedule. I have more than one group class which your child could attend.

MISSED LESSONS

No tuition credits or make-up lessons are given for missed lessons, for any reason. Please let me know if you have another commitment on lesson day. *If I possibly can*, I will reschedule the lesson. I never give lessons to students who "forget" their lesson. It is your responsibility to get to your lesson. I have my own commitments and it is difficult for me to teach other than the assigned day and time. Also remember that if your child was sick, or for any other reason didn't practice the preceding week, still have them attend the lesson. I work with them on many things such as ear training, music history, computer music games, choosing new recital pieces, sight-reading, etc. If you **occasionally** want to try to trade lessons with another student, call a parent on the class schedule provided (with at least 24- hour notice). ***One month's notice is required if your student plans to quit taking lessons.*** *It is assumed when you sign up for lessons that your commitment is for the entire school year.* Students who quit because of sports or other extra-curricular conflicts will not be re-admitted in the fall.

My Calendar

Parents: ***Please copy my calendar*** (p. 7) and tape it inside a kitchen cupboard where you can see it. I get so many calls from parents wanting to know different dates throughout the year. They are ALL in here! Please take the time to make yourself a copy and mark down the important dates early in the year. **READ ALL EMAILS** I send. Sometimes, I need to make changes to this schedule and I need you to be flexible when I do. Summer calendars **MUST** be filled out and left in the student's binder as well. They will be sent home with students in May for parents to fill out and return in the student binder!

RECITALS

I usually have four recitals each year. Remember if you have children in both younger & older classes, they will ALL attend the older recital. Since the COVID Pandemic has come to our world, I will only go forward with our programs if there is no imminent threat to the health & safety of my students and their families. Recitals could be an entirely different format this year. Stay tuned! **All recitals held at the Bountiful Davis Art Center (BDAC) at 95 North Main** unless otherwise specified.

The following recitals are scheduled for this year:

- **Halloween Recital** – October 23rd, Friday BDAC
- **Christmas Recital** -- December 11th, Friday BDAC
- **Ensemble Recital**---- February 19th, Friday Same as above
- **Spring Recital** ----- May 21st, Friday Same as above.

PRICE

The total cost of the course for a **30-minute lesson** is \$630.00 for the *school* year. The cost is divided into nine equal payments of \$70.00, September through May. ***Please note that the cost is exactly the same each month, regardless of the number of events.*** This will be easier to remember.

Summer Pricing: Eight summer lessons, maintenance fee.

June= \$70 July= \$70 August=\$40 (annual fee) \$180 summer total.

45-minute lessons are available for late intermediate and early advanced students.

School year total=\$945.00. The cost is divided into 9 equal payments of \$105.00, September through May. *Summer costs:* Tuition is \$210 for 8 lessons and plus \$40 annual fee= **\$250 summer total.**

Families should expect an annual or bi-annual increase in tuition appropriate to cost of living increases, expenses, and services offered.

Tuition is payable to **Jill Gubler** and is ***always due the first week of the month.*** Any payments received after the first week of the month will be assessed a late fee of \$10.00 per student. A quick, easy, free, preferred method of payment is the ***Venmo*** App. Add it to your phone, along with your bank information (which is secure), ask me to be your friend, then you can pay me electronically. (@Jill-Gubler)

If the student is unable to attend the first lesson of the month and you are paying with check, please mail the tuition to: Jill Gubler @ 1164 Cannon Dr., Farmington, Ut, 84025. I do not give discounts to families with more than one child taking lessons. Tuition prices will be adjusted if your child begins lessons in the middle of the month or if I miss any lessons. No refunds will be given if you quit lessons before the end of the month or after you have paid the registration fee.

TEACHING DAYS

I will be teaching **Monday through Friday** - September through May (school year schedule). I also teach in the summer on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday. I have included a list of helps for you and your student. Please go over this policy statement together. This policy changes yearly. Be sure to refer to it when you have questions about dates and times.

If it has been awhile since you filled out the student info sheet (at the end of this policy statement), you might want to update it, especially if you have any new phone numbers, emergency contacts, or email addresses. All new students should complete this page and return it to me ASAP! Thank You!

PARKING

I would appreciate it if you would drop your child off in the driveway or at the curb. You may also park (drop off/pick up) to the North of my house on 1150 South. Students should enter the front door (they don't need to knock), take their shoes off, then head straight to the studio. **Please drop off and pick up on time.** This makes the lesson time more cost-efficient and organized. If your child arrives a few minutes early, they need to sit quietly on the stairs or studio couch, so they will not disturb the lesson in progress. In the winter, students should leave their shoes on the rug or towel provided just inside the front door. I have hooks for hanging coats by the studio. Friends and other siblings should not attend the lesson.

TELEPHONING/Communication

If you call me during lesson time, you will get my voice mail. I will check my messages/texts after I am done teaching and return your call as soon as possible. There is also space provided on your student's lesson sheet where you can send notes advising me to call you, etc. ***If you will consistently check your child's notebook, look for my notes, invitations, read your email and my blog,*** you will have fewer questions and frustrations. PLEASE sign practice time each week & be sure your student is playing ALL of their assigned pieces. This can be tricky, but if you will do that, they will progress with less frustration and stay on point better. Learning gaps will narrow and they will be less anxious about coming.

Texting: During lessons I don't check texts unless your student is late. Then I check to see if you have texted me. Any other texts will be answered after my teaching schedule is over.

Students who bring cell phones to lessons must keep them put away & silence them until the lesson is over!

Email is a wonderful way to get in touch with me. You can also text me at: 801-448-8054. If you need to talk to me, I would be happy to visit with you during the day or in the evening, after lessons.

POINTS & AWARDS

I give points at each lesson for fun and motivation. I try to reward each student for their extra efforts in trying to be a good student. I give out certificates, gifts and a few trophies at the end of the school year (the week of the recital). I total all student points up throughout the year and give awards in May.

I give points for the following:

- 10 points for lesson attendance each week
- 4 points for paying tuition the **first week of the month** (6 points, when tuition is paid early)
- 1 point per page memorized
- 1 point per page passed off proficiently
- 1 point per page of theory (or fun sheets) completed (more for harder assignments)
- 1 points for each practice hour
- 5 points for each extra worksheet completed
- 10 points for writing an original song/or figuring one out by ear and playing it for me
- 10 points for entering an original song in the Reflections contest
- 5 points for each performance in public, other than recitals (school, civic, church, etc)
- 5 points for attending a public concert (symphony, band, musical, choral, opera, etc)
- 30 points for Federation Participation
- 60 points for AIM Participation

One main certificate/evaluation is awarded each student at school year's end for: practice, attendance, memorizing, most theory done in a week, most practice in a week, most points in a week, receiving over 30 points in one lesson, completing course books, skill levels, memorizing club (memorize at least 10 songs), etc.

Memorizing Trophy awarded to: the student who memorizes the most songs (in his or her age group) They must be a member of the Memorizing Club to receive a trophy.

Additional Opportunities

Not all students and/or parents are interested in extra events. The following events are optional and are for your consideration only. None of them are competitions. They are opportunities to perform and be evaluated. I will send home notes with the exact dates, as I know them. Involvement in these events means additional practicing.

AIM Testing: AIM stands for “*Achievement in Music*” and there are several skills on which a student will be tested. It is pretty much the same as the Skills Levels which are in each student’s binder (scales, cadences, chords, arpeggios, etc.) In addition, students test in sight-reading, ear-training and take a theory test. Students are required to memorize two pieces from different genres. Generally, a student can start AIM once they have taken lessons for at least a year or two.

AIM is provided courtesy of the UMTA (Utah Music Teachers Association) and is the standard by which our state measures a student's progress. There is a fee included in the testing from the State and also from Jill. \$25 to each the state and to Jill. Special awards (medals) and certificates will be issued from the state for this event. It is a great way to ensure that your student is learning what they should be learning. I highly encourage my students to participate. There are 10 levels. AIM will set your student apart in all of these areas and will make a “noticeable” difference in their confidence and abilities. An AIM participant is a well-rounded student.

AIM Ear-training and theory testing is done in January or February in my studio. Performance & other testing is done on AIM day in March (place TBA.) AIM is optional and I will discuss it with individual parents who are interested.

Performance Evaluations: Held in September. Students can play a piece they have previously learned or they can learn a new one. (They can play the previous year’s AIM or Federation pieces). Pieces must be memorized. They will be evaluated before an adjudicator. These evaluations are sponsored by the Utah Music Teachers Association. Students would need to be preparing/reviewing during the summer months for this. There is a fee. If your student has something prepared, please contact me. Fees and registration are due in early September.

Federation Festival:

National Federation of Music Clubs: NFMC Festivals Program is designed to give Junior (age 18 and younger) of all abilities the opportunity to perform and receive a yearly evaluation in a non-competitive environment. Participation in NFMC Festivals promotes music study, stimulates interest in the musical literature of both the USA and the world, and encourages each participant to reach a high standard of musical achievement. The NFMC Festivals Cup Award Plan and Honor Certificates offer additional incentives to encourage continued participation in NFMC Festivals.

Central Davis NFMC is held in March each year. Students who participate in both AIM and Federation may use the same two pieces for each event. They may also begin at an earlier age in the pre-primary division (in Federation).

Monster Concert

A few students will be invited to participate in a U of U Monster Concert held in May each year. Also, the Davis teachers are hosting a fund-raiser Monster Concert at CenterPoint in November. Details to come. Fees will be involved in both Monster Concerts. These are WONDERFUL opportunities.

Piano Schedule for 2020-2021

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
SEPT	31(aug)	NL	NL	NL	4
	NL	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	NL	29	30		
OCT				1	2
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	NL*	NL*
	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)
	26	27	28	29	30
NOV	2	3	4	5	NL**
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	NL	NL	NL	NL
	NL				
DEC		1	2	3	4
	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)
	14	15	16	17	18
	NL	NL	NL Christmas Holiday Break....No Lessons		
JAN					NL(New Year)
	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15
	NL	NL	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29
FEB	1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)
	22	23	24	25	26
MAR	1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	NL***	NL***	NL***	NL***	19
	22	23	24	25	SB
	SB	SB	SB		
APRIL				SB	SB
	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	NL	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30
MAY	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)	GC(RE)
	24	NL	NL	NL	NL
	NL				
Total Events	35	35	35	35	35

NL=no lessons, GC=Group Class, RE=Recital, *UEA, **Utah Music Teachers State Conference, SB=Spring Break, ***Music Teacher National Conf. (Atlanta) Bold letters are the actual date for GC, RE, etc .

Helpful Tips

I look forward to working with you and your student. Let's make this a positive experience. Here are a few helpful hints in succeeding with piano lessons:



- Be consistent in practicing 6 days a week (not just the night before the lesson) The retention will be better with consistency.
- Provide a well-lit practice room that is free from noise and lots of clutter.
- Be a positive, but firm influence in your child's life. Don't nag about every wrong note--that's my job. Oftentimes, after a few days of practice, those wrong notes correct themselves. Praise kids for everything--they need it!
- Offering simple rewards (for practicing, performing, etc.) pays big dividends and motivates!
- Please don't write the names of notes the on the music. It takes much longer to learn them.
- Please read any notes I send home and make sure your student is practicing ALL of his/her pieces (not just their favorite ones) Be sure to tell your student that after they have practiced all of their assigned music, they are welcome to play their favorite songs all night long if they want to!
- Please total up and record all practice time and initial it each week.**
- Encourage students to sit up straight and not put their feet on the bench(or cross their legs)
- Fingers should always be curved (like you're holding a grapefruit)
- If you have questions, concerns, problems--please call me--I can't read your mind!
- Encourage your child to perform often for family, friends, church, school, etc.
- Most children are not meant to be "concert pianists", but will flourish on the piano if they stick with it. It takes several years to become a good player. Parents should not expect that their child can take piano lessons for 2 or 3 years and be a great pianist. They need to know that this is a long-term commitment. I have taught literally "hundreds" of students over the past 48 years. The ones who play well are those who simply practiced consistently, attended lessons, recitals, & did their best.**

