

Gwynne School Lessons

At Gwynne School, piano students are excused from class for a half-hour of piano instruction per week. Those preparing for exams make further arrangements with Mrs. Didriksen.

This is arranged in September, when the school schedule is finalized.

The lessons are taught downstairs in the music area.

Piano lessons are a half hour in length, and students are expected to practice during the week, so that the following week's lesson can build on what they have learned.

The piano year is from September to the end of May, with 32 lessons in total.



**Lesson registration deadline is
June 30, 2019.
The piano lesson schedule is
arranged in September.**



The process of registering your child into piano lessons begins with reading the **Program Letter**, which explains in more detail what piano lessons are about.

There is a **registration form and fee** that is put toward September's lessons, due by June 30, 2019.

Each half hour lesson is \$20, and your commitment to the lessons is from September –May.

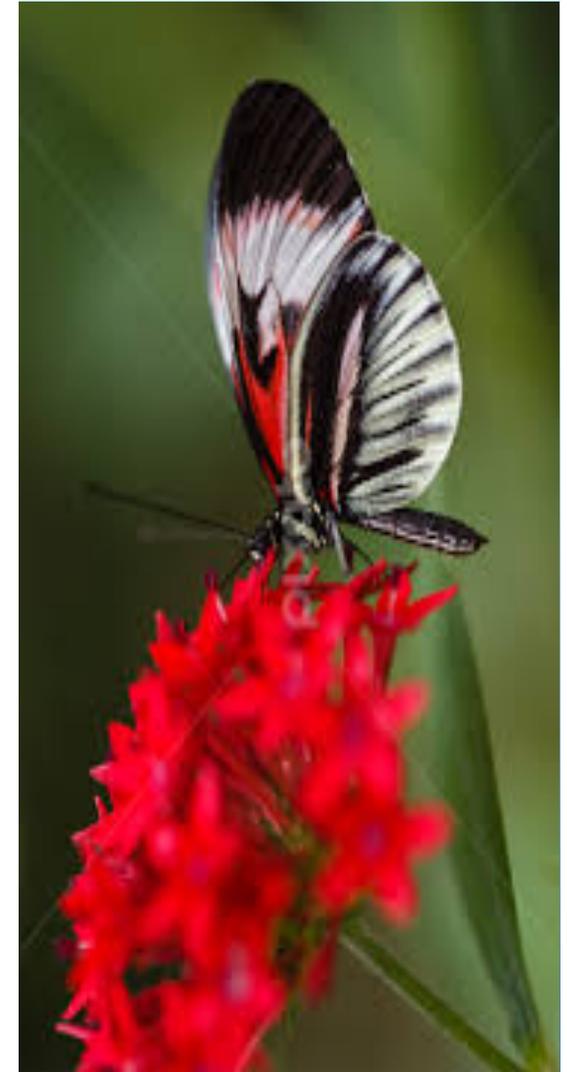
There are limited slots at Gwynne School for piano students. Their registration forms will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Program Letter can be found online at

<https://gwynneschool.ca/parent-info/piaon-lesson-with-deanna> or on the information wall at Gwynne School with the **registration form**.

Deanna Didriksen

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Piano Lessons with Deanna Didriksen

**Gwynne School
September 2019-May 2020**

The Art of Technique

In our 2019-20 school year at Gwynne School, there will be a concentrated focus on technique as we continue to build a good piano practice. Like anything we do, when we practice, we improve at it. Piano lessons are designed to equip each student with the information they need to use in their practice time at home, to put into their pieces for the next week. Our practice topics during the first few months will include practice environment, length of practice, posture, warm up techniques and how to approach practicing your music. Using this as a base, we will expand into *what is being created in this practice? How should I be playing the piano in a certain section? Are my fingers following proper piano playing technique?*

Your family should have at least 20-30 minutes per day on five days during the week to develop a practice routine - on a reliable keyboard or piano, in order for piano lessons to be a successful activity in which to put your children.



What do we learn ?



In our piano lessons, we cover a variety of topics, from learning about the piano as an instrument, approach to the piano, theory, ear training, note recognition, sight reading, and rhythm clap backs, to the history of music and information on famous composers.

Each lesson has a technique component, which is meant to train fingers (and brains!) to know how certain passages in music should be played, both physically and musically.

With regular practice, simple exercises become memorized, and then are found in the music that we cover in our lesson books.

The method books we use are from the Piano Adventures series by Nancy and Randall Faber, Conservatory Canada, and Royal Conservatory of Music.

I also make use of supplemental material from a number of music sources, which help reinforce the topics we are working on in our lessons.