

Piano Lessons with Deanna Didriksen

Gwynne School Program Letter

Hello prospective students and returning students:

May 2019

2019-20 Piano lessons are offered at the school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Interested students/parents for students are asked to fill out a registration form and submit a \$20 fee securing them a spot with me in the fall by **no later than June 30/19**.

There are limited slots available for lessons, so please get your form in right away!

I've found these guidelines helpful when teaching/taking piano lessons. Hopefully they answer any questions you may have.

Please keep in mind that lessons with me are considered private piano lessons. The school can't freely pass on information about students to me without your permission.

Communication can be directly with me- written in our "lesson book", in person, by phone, or email. The office will pass on messages, if asked.

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons at the school will be $\frac{1}{2}$ **an hour long and \$20 per lesson.**

In our lessons we will study

- Technique
- Terms
- Rhythmic Dictation
- Musicianship
- Theory
- History
- Creative expression
- Ear Training

using music, worksheets and activities. Most weeks there will be a theory element to complete at home.

A Note about Pianos

Regular practice on a piano is required when taking piano lessons. An electric keyboard with weighted keys is permissible in the first two years of lessons. Please do not sign up for piano lessons unless you have one of those two options available to you in your home. You will be asked if you have an instrument – lessons will not be offered if the answer is "no".

Consider borrowing a piano or keyboard from a family member or friend, if you would like to take lessons, but are unsure of the investment of a piano at this time.

I have a separate sheet on piano purchasing tips and information, and will pass it on, if asked.

Practicing

****Regular piano practicing is a must.** You will not remember what was learned at your piano lesson unless you re-visit the lesson notes and apply the directions to your songs over and over. It is sometimes difficult to find the time to practice. Most students can start at 15-20 min. per day (for K/Gr.1 beginners), and it doesn't have to be done all at once. 10 minutes here and then later, 10 min. there.

A good time to practice is one that is at the same time everyday. Maybe after you have brushed your teeth in the morning or right after a snack after school. If you find yourself watching T.V. and looking for a show, ask yourself: "Have I practiced today?"

I have many ways to track/keep record of students' practicing, that we will be applying this year to our lessons. Regular practice can't be stressed enough.

If it has been determined that you have not been practicing and are not making progress, a meeting will take place with parent, student and teacher (me) to discuss what options you have.

The reward for practicing is that you can move through songs at a quicker pace and in your lessons we can find out which type of music you like to play and figure out what skills need to be improved. It is not possible to do that if you are stuck on the same song lesson after lesson.

Payment of Lessons

The payment schedule will be sent home with your child after their first lesson in September. Your registration fee will be figured into the schedule. **There will be 32 lessons taught, so the yearly fee for one student is \$640.** *Additional arrangements will be made for students taking exams.

Payment shall be made in one of two ways (no exceptions):

1. Post-dated cheques dated the first lesson of each month, for 9 months (9 cheques). **This year the total amount will be divided by 9 for equal monthly payments.** (\$20 registration fee by June 30, \$68.89 per month Sept-May) You will be given receipts each month, so you know when your cheque has been deposited.
Please make cheques payable to: Deanna Didriksen.
2. Payment in full at the beginning of the year. Upon receiving the payment schedule, remit the total amount to Deanna Didriksen by the next weekly lesson.

Either method of payment is due to me seven (7) days after our first lesson. Past the seven days, lessons will be suspended until your payment method is received (ie: all post-dated cheques for the year).

The Piano Year

Our piano year runs from *September to the end of May*. In the event you decide to discontinue lessons mid-year, I require **one month's advance notice**, and will teach the lessons of that month. (Think like an apartment rental agreement.)

Missed Lessons

There will be no refunds issued for missed lessons. Your lesson time is your time. If you are sick, the school is closed due to bad roads/weather or there is a family emergency, I will try my best to make the lesson up that week. All other reasons: vacations, appointments, etc. will result in a missed lesson.

***Communication for this is very important!**

Please email me/phone or let the school know to advise me of any changes so that we can make arrangements, if necessary.

Piano Books

I will pick up piano books so the student has the correct ones to start off the year. If you have had previous lessons, make a note on your registration form and bring your books to our first lesson. Books will be charged *separately* on the lesson schedule and usually are \$20 for the lesson book and theory (combined).

If we make good progress through the year, I may ask you to pick up the next level yourself (using the completed book as a guide) and to bring it to the next lesson.

A Note on Exams

I do not require students to take exams but once they are beyond preliminary levels, we follow the syllabus as a guide to know what level they are at. When the requirements are satisfied and demonstrated for one grade, we move on to the next. Parents who request an exam for their child can contact me.

Performing Opportunities

There will be opportunities for students to perform throughout the year, including the Wetaskiwin Music Festival, Celebration of Music at the school (May), and other possible recitals. I would like to strongly encourage students to take part in next year's Wetaskiwin Music Festival, and will be bringing it up as early as December to advertise it!

There is a lot of information in this letter – if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I am looking forward to the upcoming year of lessons and making music!

Deanna Didriksen, B.A. (Music)
deannadidriksen@gmail.com
780-352-5441 (weekdays)
Box 28, Gwynne AB, T0C1L0