

# *Piano Lessons at Fox Valley Lutheran High School*

*"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19*

*Thank you for your interest in the piano program at Fox Valley Lutheran! Music lessons can be a blessing in so many ways: they develop mind and muscle coordination that transfers to all daily activities and sports, they support the full use of both sides of the brain, improving cognition that transfers to academic achievement and better test scores. Confidence, concentration, discipline, patience, determination, and perseverance are all developed through the learning of this life-long skill. It is my prayer and intention to share not only passion for music with my students, but also a passion for using their gifts to the glory of God!*

## **Studio Policies 2022-2023**

### **Attendance & Scheduling:**

- Each student is scheduled for twelve 30-minute lessons per semester.
- Lessons are scheduled during a study hall, or before or after school. (Please note: lesson time slots will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.)
- Second-semester lessons will begin in January (start date to be determined)
- Students register and pay for one semester at a time or the full year. The cost is \$20 per lesson.

### **Makeup Policy:**

- Lessons missed due to a student's illness, school-related activities, snow days, or the teacher's absence will be made up.
- Lessons may also be done online for school cancellations or if a child must stay home but still feels up to a lesson.
- Lessons missed due to a student's pre-planned absence (such as a family vacation) may be made up if the absence has been communicated to the teacher in advance.
- Field trips and other **planned absences** may also be accommodated by lesson swap if scheduling allows.
- Lessons missed due to an unexcused absence will not be made up.
- Makeup lessons will be scheduled during designated makeup weeks, or at the end of the semester.
- It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the teacher regarding scheduling makeup lessons.
- No more than 2 makeup lessons will be given in a semester (*this does not include teacher absence*).

### **Communication:**

- ❖ **News and Events:** Parent communications are via email and phone. I have a Facebook page that is only available to families in piano lessons. On it, I will post happenings with the students and local music events that may be of interest to you.
- ❖ **Texting:** To provide more thorough communication, please call or email with questions. Feel free to text me through Facebook messenger if the question needs a more immediate answer.
- ❖ **Student communication:** I will request to have students' phone numbers in order to text lesson reminders. If you are not comfortable with this, please let me know and I will not include your student.

### **Books and assignments:**

- ❖ Students need to have their own books, purchasable from Heid music.
  - Lesson/repertoire books
  - Theory book
  - Scale book
- ❖ Assignments binder or notebook. I use Google Sheets to plan lessons weekly. These will be printed and added to their binder.
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Intermediate to advanced students should also bring a hymnal if they have one (either Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal or the new WELS hymnal).

### **Instrument Requirements:**

Students need a quality instrument for practicing. Acoustic pianos need to be well maintained and tuned. Digital pianos and keyboards must have 88 weighted keys, touch response, and be on a solid stand with a bench to sit on at the proper height. If there is not an instrument available at home, the student is expected to sign up for study halls and/or contact to practice on the school pianos.

### **Performance Opportunities:**

- ❖ **FVL Chapel** - Throughout the year, intermediate and advanced level students will have the opportunity to play hymns for chapel services.
- ❖ **Church** - Students are encouraged to reach out to their home congregations to play preservice for church, or an entire service if they are able!
- ❖ **MusicFest (February)** - - This is a more "casual" performance in which all students are strongly encouraged to participate
- ❖ **WSMA Solo and Ensemble** - This formal performance is done before a small audience and a judge
- ❖ **WMTA auditions (March)**: My membership in the music teacher association allows my students to participate in the annual auditions. It is similar to Solo and Ensemble but it is open to all ages, has a theory test, and has fewer repertoire restrictions. It's a rewarding experience and I encourage students to try it for at least two years. By that time, they usually have earned enough points to earn their plaque.
- ❖ **Spring Recital** – To be determined, but will be available

### **Student Expectations:**

- ❖ Students must be prepared for lessons with all necessary materials and written work completed. If music is left at home, I will have materials on hand to still have a lesson.
- ❖ Please set a reminder on your phone calendars to remember lesson days.
- ❖ Practice between lessons is essential to the growth of a musician. Please set aside time each day for practicing without distractions.
- ❖ Practice requirement for students is **30-45 minutes per day, 5-6 days per week**, not including theory homework and other assigned written activities. The amount of time needed increases with proficiency level.
- ❖ Playing through music once or twice is not efficient practice. Focused practice with goals in mind creates increased success.
- ❖ Listening is an important tool for a musician. I encourage students to listen to quality music and attend live performances as much as they can.

### **What you can expect from me:**

- ❖ Customized lesson plans, modified as needed during the lesson
- ❖ Open communication regarding progress
- ❖ Beginning students will receive a solid rhythm and note reading foundation while advancing students will receive continued theory instruction and application
- ❖ Recommendations of materials to meet student needs

### **Discontinuing lessons:**

I never enjoy it when a student decides to withdraw from lessons but I understand the various circumstances for doing so. I ask that there is good communication before making this decision as there may be alternative options to explore. It is preferable to have one-month notice before discontinuing.

Feel free to reach out with questions:

[sakraus2@gmail.com](mailto:sakraus2@gmail.com)

920-450-1746

# Piano Lessons at FVL

Stacey Kraus, NCTM

Enrollment form

**Phone Number** 920-450-1746

**sakraus2@gmail.com**

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell (for lesson reminders): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Work Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Continuing Student - number of years studied: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Student

Tuition includes 24 lessons and a recital (payable per semester, or full year), **materials are extra**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Year \$480

\_\_\_\_\_ Semester-2 payments due September 12 & January 9: \$240

## **Materials:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will purchase books for my child. Please let me know what to get at Heid or online.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please purchase the books for me and let me know what to reimburse you.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay the \$50 materials allotment in advance for you to purchase materials for my child. Please let me know when this has been depleted.

I have read the information sheet and know what to expect from lessons.

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Student signature

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Parent signature