

Piano Department Handbook

Overview

Being a student in the Piano Program at Meyerland Middle School will provide you with a wealth of skills, knowledge, experiences, and education in the art of playing classical piano. Basic elements and technical skills will be introduced, learned, and mastered through playing: Major Scales, Cadence Patterns, Sight-Reading, Improvising, Rhythm Exercises, and Performances. The goal of each student should be to practice and perfect each element and skill. The focus of the curriculum is to develop a well-rounded, technically skilled, and intelligent pianist that is curious in pursuing a career path in piano or the musical arts. Being in this program will foster and nurture a strong education in the art of playing piano, as well as knowledge and appreciation of the different genres of piano which includes the past and present.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Black Three-Ring Classroom Binder (1/2 inch – 2 inches)
- Keyboard or Piano to practice on at home
 - * Keyboards can be bought locally or online at: Guitar Center, Fort Bend Music Center, Kawaii Piano Store, Steinway and Sons Piano Gallery
- **Short nails the entire school year**

PIANO PROGRAM COSTS

The **program cost for piano** this year is **\$75**. We are asking every family to donate! The piano program cost covers:

- repairing and replacing keyboards
- tune the four acoustic pianos
- replacing the class set of headphones
- replacing worn out method books
- providing every student with the appropriate method, solo, and duet book for school use
- purchasing new music
- purchasing a boom mic to enhance the quality of sound during performances
- Piano Department pencils, gifts, swag

Program costs are paid on the PTO website. Below are step by step

instructions to pay <https://mpva.membershiptoolkit.com/>

Click on the link or copy and paste the link above into a search engine toolbar. To get to the online donation section please:

1. Register
2. Log In
3. Go to 'Magnet Program Support'
4. Click on 'Piano Program Support for 24 - 25 School Year
5. DONATE!

Performances/Concerts

Performances/Concerts are **MANDATORY**. Missed rehearsals and/or performances will be reflected strongly in a student's grade for the six week grading period. Performances will be in the MPVA

Charles Cade Performing Arts Center. Visitors and Performers are requested to wear face masks. Make-Up Performances, for students that miss the concert day or are not dressed appropriately on performance days, will be in the M6 Piano Lab.

- Students who receive a solo and have that solo learned and memorized by October 23rd will perform for the **Piano Honors Recital** scheduled on **November 20, 2025, at 6 PM** in the MPVA Charles Cade Performing Arts Center. Student report time for this concert is 5:30 PM. Students must be dressed in Formal Attire.
- All students will perform in the Solo Piano Recitals scheduled on **January 29, 2026 and January 30, 2026 during their regular assigned classes** in the MPVA Charles Cade Performing Arts Center. **Students must come to school dressed in Formal Attire.**
- All students will perform in the Duet/Ensemble Piano Concerts on **March 26, 2026 and March 27, 2025 during their regular assigned classes** in the MPVA Charles Cade Performing Arts Center. **Students must come to school dressed in Formal Attire.**

Concerts during the class periods will promptly begin at the following times: 1st/5th 9:05 AM
6th 11:50 AM
3rd 1:20 PM
4th/8th 2:50 PM

Concert Attire

Formal: (Absolutely no jeans or tennis shoes allowed)

Girls:

- Floor length or mid calf skirt or dress of your choice with no split in the skirts or dresses. Please be aware of how skirt/dress fits when sitting down, as the performers will be sitting on a piano bench while on-stage.
- Dress shoes

Boys:

- Dress shirt with tie
- Slacks, color of your choice
- Dress shoes

Students will not perform if they are not appropriately dressed. Make-Up performances

will be the following week after the official concert, in M6 Piano Lab. All students are required to perform.

GRADING AND GRADING RUBRIC:

All student work will be assigned to one of the following categories: **Nail length will affect grades!**

Class Work (CANVAS assignments and Board Work)	25%
Homework (Scales)	10%
Quizzes (Board Work and Canvas Assignments)	20%
Tests/Performance Assessments (Solo Check/Sight-Reading Assessment/Performances)	30%
Projects (Flashcards, Reference Sheets, StoryTime!)	15%

GRADING RUBRIC FOR SIGHT-READING/SOLO CHECK

<i>(100 pts total)</i>	5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points
Technique	Low wrist, bad posture, very tense	Low wrist, decent posture, some tension	Slightly low wrist, good posture, slight tension	Wrist even with arm, good posture, no tension
Rhythm and Tempo	Rhythm not observed, no evidence of tempo	Rhythm slightly observed, some evidence of tempo	Good observance of rhythm, tempo unsteady	Good rhythm and steady tempo
Accuracy	Hands in wrong octave, notes not correct	Hands in wrong octave, few missed notes	Hands in correct octave, few missed notes	Hands in correct octave and notes are correct
Articulation	No articulation observed	Some articulation observed	Played most articulation	Observed all articulation
Dynamics	No dynamics played	Few dynamics observed	Played most dynamics	Played all dynamics

GRADING RUBRIC FOR SCALES

<i>100 pts. total</i>	6.25 points	12.5 points	18.75 points	25 points

Technique	Low wrist, very tense fingers, bad posture	Low wrist, tense fingers, good posture	Slightly low wrist, slight tension, good posture	Wrist aligned with arm, no tension, good posture
Fingering	No fingers played on correct note	One hand had correct fingering	Both hands had mostly correct fingering	Correct fingering
Notes	Could not play scale	Played few correct notes	Most notes correct	Correct Notes
Tempo	No tempo	Unsteady tempo	Few pauses	Steady tempo

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Students enter our Magnet program through the audition process in their primary/1st areas of interest. Students will remain in that discipline for their three years at Meyerland PVAMS and will not be permitted to leave their primary/1st area of interest. Should a student with mitigating circumstances wish to change their primary/1st area of acceptance, he/she must get permission from that teacher and be in good standing, AND reapply and audition for placement in the following year. If they are not accepted in the area they are auditioning for as a replacement, they will be exited out of our magnet program and thus return to their zoned school. Students are also expected to remain in their second magnet class throughout their time in our program unless there is sufficient reason (schedule conflict or after conference with teachers, change deemed necessary) presented to necessitate a change. As Magnet Transfer students, you must maintain a minimum grade of 80 in Magnet classes, and 75 in Core academic subject areas, as well as no less than an S in conduct. If a student fails to meet this requirement, he or she will be placed on a Magnet Growth Plan to improve their grades or behavior, and an accumulation of three Growth Plans will directly affect a student's magnet status and enrollment at Meyerland PVAMS.

Please feel free to email any time you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rolethial McKelvey
 Director of Piano Program
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