

Martha Mathewson
(952) 891-3127 (Landline) (952) 334-5665 (Cell)
mmathewson@olpmn.org

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATION
FOR ON-LINE PIANO INSTRUCTION
(Please Keep this Informational Document for your files)**

I am Mrs. Martha Mathewson and I play piano for the All-School Masses, for school concert events and for all of the Masses held at Our Lady of Peace. I have been asked many times if I would be willing to teach private piano lessons and until this year of COVID-19, I have not had time, so had to decline, but circumstances have changed.

Music lessons are well-documented as very positive experiences that teach, among other things, discipline, eye-hand coordination, planning ahead/forward thinking processes and promoting proper posture. Although lessons are always best where the teacher and student are together in one room, 2020 and COVID have taught us that we can adapt to second best and make things work beautifully.

I am offering on-line piano instruction for beginning students (ages 8 on up), on a one-on-one basis or up to 4 beginning students in a class, starting the week of December 7, 2020. I will create a waiting list for more advanced students and expect to begin those lessons in a few weeks. The time slots will be primarily after school and eventually on Saturdays, but there will be a few evening slots available as needed.

Students will need to commit to regular attendance at all scheduled lessons, barring an emergency or illness. Students will also need to commit to daily private practice in between lessons, in order to achieve normal progress. It is understood that all effort will be made to find a makeup time for missed lessons if they are canceled with 24 hours notice, to be scheduled at both teacher and student's convenience.

Parents will need to support their children's piano lessons by assuring they are ready for each lesson on time, providing the required teaching materials in time for the first lesson, insuring that the student practices on a daily basis in between lessons, and making sure that the appropriate funds are prepaid monthly prior to the initial lesson of each month. A parent or guardian is required to attend the first lesson; after that, parental attendance is always welcome, but optional, except as requested by me.

Here are some **Frequently Asked Questions** for your Review:

How Much Do Piano Lessons Cost?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Beginners (0-1 years of piano studies) | \$25.00 for a 30 minute lesson weekly |
| 2. Intermediate (2-4 years of piano studies) | \$38.50 for a 45 minute lesson weekly |
| 3. Advanced (5 or more years of piano studies) | \$50.00 for a 60 minute lesson weekly |

How Often Do I Need To Pay For Lessons

Lesson fees are payable at the beginning of each month BEFORE the first scheduled lesson of that month. I will provide a schedule for each month's lessons ahead of time by email.

How Do I Pay For Lessons

Payment can be made either through Zelle or Venmo, whichever platform you prefer. To pay through Zelle, enter my cell phone number (952) 334-5665. To pay through Venmo, enter my name, Martha Mathewson.

Do I Need A Piano?

YES. It can be a traditional acoustic piano (an upright or a grand), that has been recently tuned. OR, it can be an electronic keyboard with a speaker (either onboard or through an amplifier). The IDEAL electronic keyboard will have 88 Full-size "weighted keys" and a working sustain pedal. There are units like this on Amazon which retail under \$350.00. Just be sure that it has on-board speakers, or you will have to purchase an amplifier. If you get a table model, you will have to purchase a keyboard stand which will adjust for appropriate height for the student and the chair being used.

If you already own a keyboard that is shorter than 88 keys and is only semi-weighted, that will work for a period of time for a beginner. But fully weighted keys (plus the full span of 88 keys) will be required in order to achieve the right piano feel and to be able to produce nuance like accents and slurs, not to mention that the more advanced the student gets, further note range is required.

Will I Need To Purchase Music Books and Other Materials?

1. Beginners (ages 8-10) will need to purchase the following five books to start with:
Alfred Basic Piano Library: Lesson Book 1A (\$7.99), Theory Book 1A (\$7.99), Recital Book 1A (\$7.99), Technic Book 1A (\$6.99) and Notespeller 1A (\$6.99).
2. Beginners (ages 11-13) will need to purchase the following four books to start with:
Alfred Basic Piano Library Complete: Lesson Book Complete Level 1(\$8.99), Theory Book Complete Level 1 (\$8.99), Recital Book Complete Level 1 (\$8.99) and Technic Book Complete Level 1 (\$8.99)
3. Beginners (ages 14 up) will need to purchase the following one book to start with:
Alfred Basic Adult All-In-One Course, Book 1 (\$18.89)

Note: It isn't necessary to get the books which have a CD attached.

You can order this music online at Amazon.com, GrothMusic.com (curbside pickup available), SchmittMusic.com (curbside pickup available) or directly from Alfred.com. Retail prices are listed by each book below. *Please note: The ages listed by each level of beginners is an AVERAGE suggestion and is adjustable according to each person's educational advancement and should be discussed between the parent and Mrs. Mathewson before purchasing materials.*

4. Intermediate and Advanced Students will supply their current music and we will go from there.

What Happens If I Have To Cancel A Lesson?

To cancel a lesson, please give AT LEAST 24 hours notice. I will always work with you to reschedule the missed lesson. If you cancel at the last minute (within the 24 hours notice window), I will do my best to find a rescheduling time. If a makeup time is not possible to schedule, then you may lose your fee for that missed lesson.

Will My Child Need To Practice In Between Lessons?

YES. In order to steadily improve, there must be regular daily practice. As in sports, part of the discipline includes regular exercise and regular practices. In the study of piano, the student is learning to use certain muscles in different ways and regular exercise of these muscles is imperative. Also, the brain must learn to engage in new eye-hand coordination exercises, which can only improve with daily practice. The length of practice each day will vary for the age and learning level of the student.

What Technology is Required for On-Line Piano Instruction?

- iPad or Laptop which has a webcam with sound (both input and output)
- Zoom Platform

Do I Have To Attend Classes With My Child?

You, as the parent are always encouraged to follow your child's education carefully. You are requested to attend the first lesson. You are welcome to attend as many lessons as you desire after that, and it is a good idea to try for at least once a month, to observe the progress which is being made.

When Are Lessons Offered?

I will begin providing lessons the week after Thanksgiving. To start with, I will be available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between the hours of 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Lessons will be at the same time every week, unless otherwise notice is provided ahead of time.

How Do I Sign Up?

Please fill in the form attached below and provide your signatures. Return the form to me at mass, or scan it and send it by email to mmathewson@olpmn.org. Feel free to call me (leave a message if I do not pick up!) or email me with any questions.

Thank you very much for your interest. Here's to an exciting adventure in the study of piano!

Sincerely,
Martha Mathewson (Mrs. M.)

APPLICATION FOR ON-LINE PIANO INSTRUCTION

(Please fill out this form and return to me
By email or hand it to me at Mass)

(Please Print)

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STUDENT'S PHONE: _____ PARENT'S PHONE: _____

STUDENT'S EMAIL: _____ PARENT'S EMAIL: _____

GRADE IN SCHOOL: _____ # OF YEARS OF PIANO LESSONS: _____

OTHER MUSICAL EXPERIENCE (Describe; i.e. Band, Choir, other instrument, how long?): _____

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PIANO: _____

AVAILABILITY FOR LESSONS:

Monday: ☐3:00 ☐3:35 ☐4:10 ☐4:45

Tuesday: ☐3:00 ☐3:35 ☐4:10 ☐4:45

Wednesday: ☐3:00 ☐3:35 ☐4:10 ☐4:45

Thursday: ☐3:00 ☐3:35 ☐4:10 ☐4:45

PAYMENT OPTION PREFERENCE: ☐VENMO ☐ZELLE

(Please Sign)

I (Student) have read the attached information and understand. I am willing to commit to regular daily practice and attendance at lessons.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

I (Parent) have read the attached information and understand it. I am willing to commit to making sure that the student has the materials needed, engages in regular practice, is available and prepared for each lesson and that payment is received each month prior to the first lesson of that month.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE