

Dana Martin Studio

IT'S YOUR FIRST PIANO LESSON

Congratulations!



Dana Martin

Teacher - Coach

Creator of Worship Keys™



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

danamartinstudio.com



WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR FIRST LESSON AND THE NEXT, AND THE NEXT...

Congratulations on your excellent decision to start piano lessons, and thanks for choosing Dana Martin Studio!

Whether you're an adult student or the parent of a student, you may have several questions about what to expect at piano lessons. Here's an overview that should answer most of your questions.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions not answered here.

I'm confident you'll be delighted with your results as you benefit from my more than four decades of teaching experience.

BEGINNING STUDENTS

Piano Express beginners will be introduced to the world of music making with:

- **See it!** Students learn to understand the logic of note reading, including hand position, theory, pattern recognition, practice strategies, and more.
- **Feel it!** Students learn to play imaginatively and expressively with proper technique.
- **Create it!** Children have a natural sense of curiosity and spirit of exploration. Composing and improvising are great ways for students to acclimate themselves to the sounds and landscape of the instrument, as well as solidify theoretical concepts as students progress.
- **Hear it!** A student's long-term success largely depends on their ability to read notes well. Ear training helps the student evaluate their accuracy and helps to develop a perception of pitch, thus boosting the student's reading level even further.

Students will receive 2 books at their first lesson and will leave the first lesson usually having earned stars on a few pieces already!



TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who are early intermediate to advanced and have taken lessons from other teachers usually adjust quickly to my teaching style. At the first lesson we'll:

01**OBSERVE**

The student play a piece s/he's comfortable and confident with (his/her choice)

02**IDENTIFY**

Style, form, rhythmic stability, and general musicality

03**ASK**

Musical and personal preference questions

04**EXAMINE**

Current books to find out what's already been played, levels completed, etc.

05**DECIDE**

If additional books are needed

06**DETERMINE**

What needs to be reviewed

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE LESSON

INSTRUCTION

Students will receive instruction in any or all of the following: lesson book (or comparable assignment), supplementary music, technical exercises, scales, theory, ear-training, music history, and performance.

REWARDS FOR KIDS AND TEENS


Students receive stickers for completing all assignments each week and for memorization. Students also receive stickers for completing a minimum amount of practice during the week, depending on their level. When a sticker chart is filled, students may pick a prize from the treasure box.

"Madison was never that interested in learning piano until you started teaching her. Now I never have to ask her to practice. She loves to practice, and is even excelling!

Thank you for inspiring her!"

—Kristie Dressler

REACH YOUR GOALS



"Thank you for the way you have inspired Timothy and Daniel. We love the songs they are playing and are just so thrilled with how much they are learning. Timothy played in church this past Sunday! You are such a blessing."

—Dawn VanWingerden

SUBSEQUENT LESSONS

MY EXPECTATIONS DURING THE LESSON

- When you arrive, you may come on into the studio. Ethan, our office admin will likely greet you. There is a waiting area (second door on the right) where students and parents may wait until lesson time. Siblings are welcome to wait quietly in this room as well. Please bring something quiet for your other children to do while waiting. Drop off and pick up is also an option if you have errands to run or want to keep siblings entertained.
- If needed, please wash your hands in the bathroom down the left hallway (the bathroom is on the right).
- Students should arrive with all lesson books and music folder.
- Students should have practiced the required amount of time during the week and have all lesson sheets signed by a parent.
- Parents, please pick up your student on time at the end of the lesson each week.

INFO FOR ALL STUDENTS

TUITION AND OTHER FEES



Online payment is required before the first lesson for the first month's tuition. For subsequent payments, you may choose to have funds automatically withdrawn monthly or bi-annually. Checks, cash, or online payment through your checking account or credit card are also accepted.

You'll receive an email invoice (or sales receipt for automatic payments) monthly or bi-annually about a week before payment is due. Please have payment ready in advance or use one of our other convenient methods.

Please read the Registration/Studio Agreement carefully for information regarding recital fees, late fees, discontinuing lessons, etc.



STUDIO AGREEMENT

Completion of the online Studio Agreement/Registration Form is required before the first lesson. Please read the studio agreement carefully and ask questions if needed. All policies are strictly enforced.

PRACTICE SHEETS

Students will receive lesson notes, practice log, progress sheet, and incentive chart. A pocket folder will be supplied for your student to keep track of these papers.

LESSON NOTES

All assignments for the coming week are listed on the Lesson Notes. Look for any special practice instructions or tips to help polish and master pieces. This form also allows you to see how well your student scored during the lesson. Students are asked to "rate" their practice for the previous week in a fun way using emojis. This helps students to be aware of their own progress and initiative.

PRACTICE LOG

The student (or parent of younger students) is required to DAILY log the minutes practiced on the Practice Log. Parents should total and initial at the end of the week. Please use one line per week.

PROGRESS SHEET

At each lesson I'll complete the Progress Sheet, checking off assignments completed for each book, awarding stickers for all assignments completed and memorization, and occasionally writing a note to the parent for star performance or something that needs extra attention. Parents should check the ongoing progress for their student and initial this sheet each week.

INCENTIVE CHART

Each week students will receive stickers on their Incentive Chart (sticker sheet) for each day practiced during the week as well as every star awarded on their Progress Sheet. When the chart is full, students may pick a prize from the treasure box.

MUSIC BOOKS

Students will have a lesson book (main method book or comparable music), a theory book (for writing assignments), a technical exercise and/or scales book or sheets, and supplementary music. I have several methods that I choose from, depending on the age and expected advancement of the student.

Intermediate and advanced students may play classical (or other) music rather than from a method book. At this level I also encourage project pieces, such as competition pieces, worship music, video game music, choir accompaniment, banquet music, wedding or graduation pieces, etc.

Students are encouraged to bring or suggest music they're interested in learning. I also encourage students to perform as often as possible at school, church, and for family and friends. As I like to say, why only practice and never play in the game!

I recommend providing a book bag for your student to carry their books in and keep them corralled during the week.

ADULT STUDENTS

CUSTOMIZED LESSONS

Lessons are customized for your needs and goals. Beginner and refresher students will work in the following books: method, theory, technical exercises, and supplementary music (your choice according to your taste and preferences).

PERFORMANCES

Adult students are welcome but not required to perform in recitals, competitions, or other performances. You'll learn at your own pace in a relaxed environment.

WORSHIP KEYS

Worship Keys™ students will work on worship pieces according to your level; you'll learn theory, technique, rhythm, and style for each particular piece. All pieces are your choice, including hymns and contemporary worship songs.



"Thank you so much for instilling a love for the piano and the passion for music in my sweet girl! You've played such a vital role in her life, and your leadership and kindness has been such a blessing."

—Courtney Abughazaleh

REVIEW FOR PARENTS

- Please complete the online Registration/Studio Agreement before the first lesson.
- Credit card info is required to secure lesson day and time, and for the first month's tuition.
- Please supply a book bag for your student.

Each week please:

- Set aside time for daily practice for your student and help him/her get into the habit of daily practice
- Log practice time DAILY on Practice Log
- Review and initial Progress Sheet and Practice Log and Lesson Notes
- Send your student to lessons with all books and papers

IN CLOSING

Again, thank you for choosing Dana Martin Studio. I look forward to a long and happy relationship with you and your family!

Feel free to contact me any time you'd like to discuss your student's progress or musical goals. I'm invested in seeing your student thrive musically and advance at a pace that fits his/her abilities and interests.

Sincerely,



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danamartinstudio.com

