

Piano Information

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful summer and I hope you continued to practice your piano! We look forward to seeing all the 7th and 8th graders and Ms. McKelvey and I are looking forward to working with the new 6th graders!

MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need **headphones** with a 1/4" jack (available at Radio Shack). 7th and 8th graders should have their **black 1" performance binder** from last year and all 6th graders and new piano students to Johnston will be given a performance binder. The headphones will be the only item that will need to be brought to the classroom with the student. All other materials including piano books will be provided for use at school.

HOME PRACTICE BOOKS

Students will be able to “check out” a method book for home practice after the piano fee is paid. Please give us a couple of class periods to talk to the students and place them in the correct methodology book. Students who were in the piano lab last year will continue in the same book they were using at the end of the previous year. Intermediate and advanced students will receive home copies of their assigned pieces.

PIANO FEE

The **fee for piano** this year is unchanged at **\$75**. The piano fee covers the cost of repairing pianos; replacing worn out books; piano t-shirts for the students; fees for solo and ensemble contest; providing every student with the appropriate books for school use; and purchasing new music. After paying their fee, students may check out an “at home” practice book to be returned either at the end of the year or when they progress to the next level. You may send the piano fee to your child’s piano teacher during class time or before school at any time, but all **fees will be due by the end of September**. We will be glad to address financials issues if you will contact us and we can set up a plan that will work for you.

ASSIGNMENTS

The students will study scales, technical finger exercises, method books, solo and duet music for concerts, ensemble pieces with their classmates, and practice theory skills in the computer lab or at home using *emusictheory.com*. Students in the advanced (Period 1) and the intermediate (period 4) class will use repertoire from the UIL list in lieu of a method book. Copies of their selections will be made for them.

PRACTICE LOGS

We strive to provide your child with a comprehensive piano education. Having your child practice at home is a must for success! Your child will earn their practice log grade by journaling the content, techniques and goals of their practice for each week. **These logs, which will be given to the students during the second week of school, will be due, with a parent’s signature, before progress reports and the end of each grading cycle.** Students will have an assignment sheet each nine weeks and will know what they are working on at all times. Due dates will be posted on the board, on the piano parents google group (<http://groups.google.com/groups/jms-piano-parents>), and will be listed on the sheet. Points will be deducted for turning logs in late.

GRADING

The students' grade will reflect work done in the following manner:

Daily Class Practice	35%
Concert/In class Recitals	20%
Assignments	30%
Reflections/Practice Log	15%

Please feel free to email me dgrossco@houstonisd.org any time you have any question about piano. Ms. McKelvey can be reached by using rmckelve@houstonisd.org
We are very excited about this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Grosscope

Ms. McKelvey