

**2018-2019**  
**SARAH BLACK PIANO STUDIO**  
**HANDBOOK**



**Welcome !**

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome each of you to a new year of piano instruction! It will be a fabulous year filled with motivational and enrichment activities in addition to solid learning tools and techniques.

While a proposed calendar is included, please keep in mind that lessons are always *individual*. Just as each student is unique, each lesson schedule will necessarily be unique. Lesson conflicts are inevitable.

I offer a wide variety of enrichment and performance activities. These, too, will be unique to each student. Although highly encouraged, all activities are optional; never mandatory.

Parent involvement is *necessary* for student success. There is no substitute for your encouragement and support. I invite questions and feedback at all times.

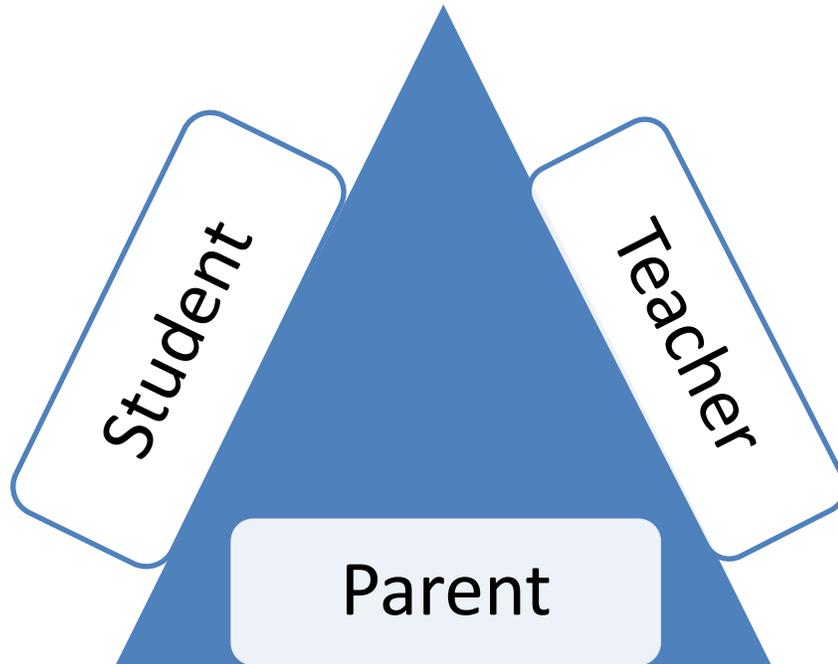
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I look forward to a fantastic year of piano learning adventures.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Black*

# SUCCESS



## The Success Team

### Student

- Possesses basic ability
- Desires to learn
- Prepares by consistent practice
- Pursues goals

### Teacher

- Qualifies by education and experience
- Desires to teach
- Prepares high-quality instruction and materials
- Provides motives and incentives
- Provides opportunities for achievement and performance

### Parent

- Provides equipment and materials
- Oversees practice
- Determines clear expectations and goals
- Supports and encourages

## ABOUT LESSONS

As a private teacher I bring students an insight from the highest level while providing patient advice that is tailored to the needs of each student. No two students are alike, and therefore a different approach must be taken with each one. I specialize in giving the essential tools for my students to flourish while providing a love for music and maintaining high standards. I am also experienced at taking proven students and bringing them to a higher level, sometimes correcting problems that may have occurred during a previous learning process. I offer a balanced curriculum which includes repertoire, technique, theory, and performance. I believe that music is a cool and rewarding experience and that students deserve to experience it that way. I am well versed and experienced in many styles of music and I am excited to pass these on to my students as well.

I am an active member of local, state, and national professional musical organizations through which I offer opportunities for enrichment; both competitive and non-competitive.

- ✓ The Introductory Lesson is always free so it can be seen if it is a good match.
- ✓ Lessons will be at the student's home, which I find beneficial to the comfort of learning.
- ✓ Tuition: \$30 per half hour lesson. A yearly cost of living increase **may** be added.  
Billed by monthly invoice; payable in advance.  
Make-up lessons will be scheduled as *necessary*.  
*It is customary to give one month notice before lessons are terminated.*
- ✓ Materials: Music and materials will be added to the monthly invoice.
- ✓ Activities: Fees will be added to the monthly invoice.
- ✓ While I teach all levels, including, highly advanced students, a superior ability does not influence my decision to accept a student; even with beginners. *The student just needs to have a keen interest, a supportive family and a general natural aptitude for the instrument.*
- ✓ ***In order to succeed and advance, students must commit to regular practice; with parental supervision as necessary.***
- ✓ The basics of piano playing start from the classical perspective, but as the student progresses, supplemental materials (pop, movie music, folk tunes, etc) are added. The use of technology is suggested and encouraged as appropriate.
- ✓ Enrichment opportunities are highly encouraged, but not mandatory.

**Please see attached list of enrichment experiences and activities.**

# CALENDAR

**NOTE:** Lessons on school holidays are *optional*, unless otherwise indicated.  
 Kindly inform me your preference at least one week in advance.

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	3	Labor Day HOLIDAY	NO LESSONS
	4	Regular lessons begin	
	24	Sarah out of town (Tentative)	NO LESSONS
	25	Sarah out of town (Tentative)	NO LESSONS
	26	Sarah out of town (Tentative)	NO LESSONS
<b>OCTOBER</b>	5	Klein ISD Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
	8	ALL SCHOOLS - Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
	21	CCMTA-TMTA Theory Test	
	31	HALLOWEEN	Lessons OPTIONAL
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	10	CCMTA Fall Festival	
	19-20	ALL Schools - Holidays	Lessons OPTIONAL
	21-23	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS	NO LESSONS
<b>DECEMBER</b>	21	Klein ISD Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
	24-31	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	NO LESSONS
	27	Winter Performance at assisted living facility	
<b>JANUARY</b>	1-4	ALL Schools - Holidays	NO LESSONS
	7	Klein Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
	7-8	Tomball ISD Holidays	Lessons OPTIONAL
	7	Regular lessons resume	
	21	ALL Schools - Holiday - MLK	Lessons OPTIONAL
	26	CCMTA-TMTA Theory Test	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	9	CCMTA/TMTA Ensemble auditions	
	18	ALL Schools - Holiday - Presidents' Day	Lessons OPTIONAL
	23	CCMTA Spring Festival	
<b>MARCH</b>	11-15	SPRING BREAK HOLIDAYS	Lessons OPTIONAL
	18	Tomball ISD Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
<b>APRIL</b>	6	CCMTA Piano Contest	
	19	ALL Schools - Holiday	NO LESSONS
	22	Klein ISD Holiday	Lessons OPTIONAL
	28	STUDIO SPRING RECITAL	
<b>MAY</b>	20-24	Guild Auditions (Tentative Dates)	
	27	ALL Schools – Holiday - Memorial Day	NO LESSONS
	28-30	ALL Schools - Last week of school	Lessons OPTIONAL
<b>JUNE</b>	3	Summer lesson schedule begins	

# Resources

## **Cypress Creek Music Teachers Association**

[www.ccmta.org](http://www.ccmta.org)

On this site you can obtain valuable information about events sponsored by the organization. On the "Parents" pages you can find links to additional helpful information; e.g., tips for parents and students, piano maintenance.

## **Texas Music Teachers Association**

[www.tmta.org](http://www.tmta.org)

Helpful information about the state sponsored events.

## **Music Teachers National Association**

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

Many insights and resources.

## **Music Game/Theory/History/Listening Websites/Apps**

**\*\*\*\*\*The first 4 are particularly helpful**

<http://www.joytunes.com>

Home of Piano Maestro, ranked #1 Education App, is an in depth educational tool for students beginning to study piano. Piano Maestro helps students practice and learn their sight reading.

<http://www.musictheory.net/>

Includes quality theory tutorials, and interactive identification and ear training drills in note reading, key signatures, intervals and triads.

<http://www.teoria.com/>

This is a great site for music theory.

[www.classicsforkids.com](http://www.classicsforkids.com)

Classics for Kids contains games, music lessons, lesson plans and information on composers and classical music. Rhythm, Notes, Compose

[www.musick8kids.com](http://www.musick8kids.com)

Fun music stuff just for kids. "Piggy's Piano Lesson"

<https://www.scorebig.com/helpful-music-games>

This website features various games that teach and reinforce theory, music reading and provide basic introductions to several different instruments.

[www.musiclearningcommunity.com](http://www.musiclearningcommunity.com)

This website contains hundreds of learning games of varying levels, all carefully planned to gain mastery of the elements of music theory, ear training and rhythmic skills in an exciting, challenging environment.

<http://pianoeducation.org/pnokids.html>

This site is just for kids—to talk to other kids about piano, listen to the Taz-man, jump to other cool places, time travel to meet a famous composer or pianist, get a great tip to help with lessons, get help with writing piano or music reports or even ask a question!

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

Funbrain offers games on composers, instruments, reading and vocabulary.

[www.datadragon.com](http://www.datadragon.com)

Learning about and listening to different instruments, reading music, musical genres and links to additional sites are the features of this site.

<http://www.uptoten.org/>

This site includes games and songs. You also can use this site to search for more related sites.

<http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/>

"Name That Tune," a link to the American Symphony Orchestra League, Instruments, lesson plans and games all can be found on this website.

[www.homeworkspot.com/theme/classicalmusic.htm](http://www.homeworkspot.com/theme/classicalmusic.htm)

This site offers many links to quality classical music sites.

[www.quia.com/web](http://www.quia.com/web)

Students can test their music knowledge with quizzes, matches, concentration card games and other activities.

[www.creatingmusic.com](http://www.creatingmusic.com)

Elementary-age students can enjoy exploring, creating and manipulating music.

[pbskids.org/chuck/index.html#jazz](http://pbskids.org/chuck/index.html#jazz)

Elementary students can enjoy playing with an interactive Improvisation Station.

[www.anvilstudio.com](http://www.anvilstudio.com)

Enable students to compose from a MIDI keyboard and add voice-overs or other audio recorded through a microphone.

<http://www.smartmusic.com/>

Access online accompaniments that function as virtual accompanists.

<http://www.ezmusictheory.com/>

This site is devoted to ear training and theory skills.

<http://www.good-ear.com/>

This site offers ear training and theory skills.

<http://www.MakingMusicFun.net>

This site contains lots of free music resources for elementary music classroom teachers, private music instructors and homeschool parents, for the purpose of building kids up in positive ways and enriching their lives with an appreciation for music and learning.

<http://www.happynote.com/en/music-notes.html>

Happy Note! music games (shareware and freeware) are both amusing and educational. They offer a way to learn to read music notes in treble clef and bass clef the fun way.

[www.foriero.com](http://www.foriero.com)

A music educational portal designed especially for kids and music beginners. Primarily focusing on the piano basics, they produce games to learn music easily with fun.

[www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)

KidsClick! is a web search site designed for kids by librarians—with kid-friendly results! The site includes links to kid-friendly websites about music and music history.

[www.sphinxkids.org](http://www.sphinxkids.org)

Sphinx Kids contains interactive games and videos.

<http://trainer.thetamusic.com/en>

Theta Music Trainer features music and ear training games.

## **Performer-Based Websites**

<http://www.dariamusic.com/>

World Music With DARIA is a website from this multiple award-winning educator and musician. The website was given a 2009 Parent's Choice Award for its family-friendly introduction of world music to young people and its resources for teachers, parents and special education professionals. The instrument section allows children to color, hear and find pdf instructions on how to make world music instruments such as cajónes (box drums), didgeridoos, shekeres, pow-wow drums and guiros along with cultural background information.

<http://www.fromthetop.org/>

The From The Top website is designed for young classical musicians. This clever website has: The Green Room, Hall of Fame, Answer Zone, Student Lounge, a Reference Room and an area for parents and teachers. Partnered with the highly successful From The Top radio program, this site offers the more "serious" young musicians an opportunity to hear from others like them and benefit from socialization of sorts with others like themselves.

<http://www.jazzkids.com/>

JazzKids was created for children of all ages. The website offers teachers, parents and even the youngest students the opportunity to be introduced to jazz. The interactive audio, video and curriculum are not intended to replace a teacher!

## **Symphony-Based Websites**

<http://www.sfskids.org/>

The new SFSKids presents an updated online experience entirely different from the original SFSKids. Some of brand-new features and content throughout SFSKids include: a fun and playful series of educational modules presented as immersive environments and using animal avatars as guides; the ability to explore various linkages between composers, instruments and music compositions; the use of some game-based techniques to motivate repeated listening and engagement; gesture-controlled simulation scenarios using the mouse and keyboard to provide "hands-on" experiences of playing instrument and conducting music; interactive online tutorials to learn about music basics; the opportunity for users to compose and notate their own original music; and much more.

[www.dsokids.com](http://www.dsokids.com)

The site features games, listen and learn, and various teacher resources from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

<http://www.nyphilkids.org/>

Great graphics and fun games-like the clarinet scavenger hunt-make this New York Philharmonic website great, especially for instrumental students.

[play.lso.co.uk](http://play.lso.co.uk)

LSO Play allows you to experience the orchestra from multiple points of view.