



BETTY SMITH'S MUSIC STUDIO

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<https://ksmta.org/member-page/betty-smith>

This teacher's approach to music study seeks to develop the whole child, to help unfold his/her natural potential to learn and become a happy, responsible, and caring person. The purpose is not only to develop accomplished pianists, but to help every student find the joy that comes through music-making. Students thrive in an environment of support, developing confidence and self-esteem, the determination to try difficult things, self-discipline, concentration, a lasting enjoyment of music, and sensitivity and skill for making music.

Playing the piano is a wonderful skill. Not only does it involve basic muscle coordination, reading ability, musicality, discipline, and diligent work, but also includes a sense of creativity, achievement, enjoyment, and appreciation for music in general. Recent research indicates that the study of piano can enhance brain development and activity, especially in young children. The following policies are designed to help make your study an enjoyable, worthwhile, and productive experience.

Lessons include solo pieces from the classics, folk tunes, jazz, sacred, and popular repertoire. A combination of private and group lessons enhance other areas such as basic theory, music history and appreciation, ensemble playing, sight-reading, improvisation, transposition, and harmonization.

A binder is provided for taking notes during the lesson and recording assignments. Parents not attending lessons should check these binders weekly for any communication from the teacher. Always feel free to ask questions if something is unclear regarding the teaching points or assignments.

Although practicing is sometimes a chore, playing the piano is a PHYSICAL skill. As such, it requires daily, steady, consistent practice for fast and efficient progress. Only in progressing does a student feel a sense of achievement and enjoyment in the musical experience. It is strongly recommended that the student practice at least 5 days a week. Dr. Suzuki says, "Only practice on the days you eat!" Quality of time is more important than quantity, but it will average 20 minutes for preschoolers (often divided into two 10-minute sessions), 30-40 minutes for elementary and 45 to 90 minutes or more for junior high and up. This time should be scheduled as part of the day's activities and become a habit not to be broken.

Opportunities are scheduled throughout the school year for students to play for others during group lessons, in recitals (two per school year), in auditions sponsored by music teacher organizations (MTNA, KMTA, KCMTA, Federated), and other events as announced. Participation is encouraged, but never forced. Most auditions are non-competitive in nature and intended to be a positive motivational experience. A calendar of lesson weeks, group lesson weeks, holiday breaks, and activities will be distributed to all students in June and updated in September.

Tuition is due in advance and should ***be received by*** the ***first*** day of each month. Payments received after the 5th of the month will be considered late, and a \$15 late fee will be assessed. Payments received after the 15th of the month will require a \$25 late fee. Returned checks will result in a \$25 service charge. No refunds will be given at any time. If no payment is received by the 20th, lessons will be discontinued until payment and late fee are received in full. If payment is a problem at any time, please contact me *before* your payment is late. Email tuition reminders will be sent if your payment is not received by the 5th of the month. You may pay at your last lesson of the month, drop off the check at the studio during teaching hours, mail your check, have your bank send a check directly, or use PayPal (<https://paypal.me/ExperienceBSmith>) (For PayPal payments, please add 3% for PayPal fees.) When leaving the program of study, a 30-day written notice is required with the tuition payment for those 30 days of lessons. Thank you for this courtesy!

Tuition is based on 38 lessons (34 private and 4 group) from June to May and divided into **12** equal payments for convenience. Tuition is as follows:

30 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 108
45 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 162
60 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$ 216
75 minute lessons: 12 payments of \$270

A \$35 non-refundable enrollment fee per child is to be included with the registration form each year. Studio enrollment is open March 15 -- April 20 to current students, and available slots will be offered to students on the waiting list in May. Students who begin later in the yearly calendar will be given a pro-rated monthly payment amount based on the number of lessons they will receive from their start day to the end of May.

The studio has a “**no make-up lesson**” policy. If a student misses a lesson for any reason, the time will be used by the teacher for lesson/group, recital, and audition planning or administrative duties pertaining to the studio and the student’s benefit. If you miss a lesson, your lesson time is forfeited for that week, and payment will be expected. Your lesson time has been “sold” to you and cannot be “resold” because you are absent.

- (a) If you know about your absence in advance, you may take advantage of the SWAPS list and swap your lesson time with another student. Student contact information will be included on a “SWAPS” list to be shared with other students who have signed up to SWAP. If you need to miss a lesson, you should contact a student on the list and “swap” your lesson times for that week. Please note the lesson length of each student involved – they may be different! You are responsible for arranging the SWAP with the other student and **texting** or **emailing** me the information of what you have arranged. A form will be provided for inclusion on the SWAPS list, or it is available on the studio webpage. This system has worked extremely well and keeps students from having to forfeit lessons.
- (b) If students take more than 6 summer lessons, the extra lessons can be counted toward the total 38 lessons if a student needs to miss during the school year, thus not needing to “forfeit” a lesson that was included in the tuition payments. (Tuition includes 6 summer lessons)
- (c) If a student is slightly ill but could still take a lesson, he/she is welcome to take an online lesson with ZOOM, thus avoiding a missed lesson.
- (d) If Olathe Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the lesson will be held online using ZOOM. This will also apply if the schools are canceled on a day scheduled for Group Lessons.

Your courtesy in informing me of an upcoming absence or cancellation is greatly appreciated. Please keep in mind that your tuition includes many things other than your specific weekly time. It is not solely based on the amount of lesson time, but includes teacher time for lesson planning, communication, selecting music, recitals, registration and attendance at student auditions and events, etc., as well as recital fees and binder costs. No refunds for missed lessons will be given at any time.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments, please call, text, or email me. Open communication is essential to a positive musical experience.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

“Music is the language of the heart without words.”

“Art develops a beautiful heart in a person.”

*“Every child can learn. Any child can be developed—
Depends on how you do it.”*

“Beautiful tone – Beautiful heart.”

From Dr. Shinichi Suzuki

*Do not neglect your music; it will be a companion that will sweeten many hours of
life to you.*

Thomas Jefferson

Don't play the notes; play the meaning of the notes.

Pablo Casals

*Being a musician isn't about perfection; it's about passion.
People don't go to shows to hear a perfect performance; they go to feel
something.*

Unknown

The music is not in the notes, but in the silence in between.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Your fingers hit the keys; your heart plays the piece.

Unknown