

Western Illinois University School of Music
Community Music School
<http://wiu.edu/CommunityMusicSchool>

Piano Program
Fall 2009 Handbook

Welcome to the first year of the WIU Community Music School Piano Program! We are so pleased to be able to combine the former Lincoln Elementary Afterschool Piano Program with the private studios of our current WIU keyboard majors to create this formal and exciting piano program. Students will have weekly lessons in Browne Hall (in our state-of-the-art digital piano lab and/or on one of our many grand pianos), and will present a formal recital at the end of the semester in WIU's beautiful Recital Hall. Piano training is a daily commitment, and we look forward to watching the students grow and mature as the semester progresses.

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Purpose

The WIU Community Music School Piano Program was created to offer youth in the Macomb area a formal, organized, exciting and engaging piano experience. Students will have the opportunity to take lessons from some of the finest WIU students, and will benefit from their teachers' enthusiasm, up-to-date pedagogical methods, and the camaraderie that exists within the piano student body.

Lessons

Students will take one private lesson per week (30, 45 or 60 minutes). Students will meet their teacher in Browne 213 each week (the digital piano lab) and will be directed to their lesson location from there. Parents may make special arrangements with the teachers directly, if they would like their child met in an alternate location (the Browne parking lot, bus stop, etc.).

Lessons will be held from Monday 08/31/09 through Friday 12/11/09. There will be no lessons on 09/07/09 (Labor Day), and no lessons the week of 11/23/09 (Thanksgiving).

Parking

Parents need to register their vehicle with the Office of Public Safety (Mowbray Hall) at the beginning of each semester. You will be issued a placard to place on your dash, which will allow you to park in the Browne parking lot during your child's lesson each week. More information on parking is available on the Community Music School website.

Winter Recital

Sunday, December 13, 2009, 3:00pm
WIU Recital Hall (north side of Simpkins Hall)

Tuition

Lessons are pro-rated at \$28/hour:

30-minute lessons = \$14

45-minute lessons = \$21

60-minute lessons = \$28

Payment is due monthly, at the first lesson of each month, and is payable by *check only*, written to the *WIU Community Music School*. Students should bring their monthly check to their teacher at the first lesson of each month. If payment is not received by the second lesson of any given month, the teacher has the right to cancel lessons until payment is received.

Typical tuition example: Joey's Thursday afternoon piano lessons in September will be held on September 3, 10, 17 & 24. Joey takes 30-minute lessons from his teacher each week. Joey should bring a check for \$56 to his September 3 piano lesson (4 lessons x \$14), and his tuition will be considered current for the month of September.

Books and Supplies

Each teacher will inform the parents of what books they will work from. I recommend ordering music from Eble Music in Iowa City: 319-338-0313 (they are fast and reliable). Teachers may ask parents to purchase additional supplies (such as flash cards, a metronome, etc.) throughout the course of the year. Books and supplies will typically not exceed \$25 per semester.

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend all scheduled lessons. Lessons that are cancelled by the student or teacher will typically not be made up; make-up lessons will be arranged at the discretion of the parent and teacher. Lessons that are cancelled because of student illness or emergency *with at least 24 hours notice* will not be charged (a credit will apply toward the next month's tuition).

Expectations

Students are expected to budget in 15-60 minutes of *daily practice time* in order to meet their musical goals (each teacher will advise the parents of the daily practice expectation). The WIU CMS Piano Program uses a “Three Strike” system to ensure that all expectations are being met. If a student comes to their lesson unprepared (or skips a lesson), the student/parents will be informed of Strike One. If a student reaches Strike Three in any given semester, the teacher has the right to terminate lessons with that student at the end of the month. Parents are encouraged to communicate directly, freely and often with the teacher to make sure all expectations are being met and the experience is positive and productive for all involved.

Please let me know how I can make piano lessons more successful and rewarding for your child – I am happy to discuss any of your ideas or concerns at any time. By giving your child piano lessons, you are giving them a gift they will use for a lifetime! Thank you for your support of the WIU Community Music School.

~Dr. Tammie Walker