



PIANO LESSON REGISTRATION 2020-21

Teacher: Diane Beckstead

Welcome Back! I am SO anxious to see my students again after our long hiatus! Though the spring was difficult, I am reasonably pleased with how our Zoom lessons and Virtual Piano Recital went. Of course, in-person lessons are always more desirable, but I believe we have a system in place should virtual lessons be required again.

If you are new to piano lessons, the attached information sheet explains scheduling, pricing, etc. Note that pricing is different for first graders! **ALL STUDENTS (both new and returning students) must return the sign-up sheet attached to this letter by August 30.** I will not *assume* that past piano students are playing this year.

Here are the plans for piano lessons this coming school year, with social distancing measures in place:

- Students will be matched with other students who are at a similar level in groups of 2-3. Lessons will be 35 minutes in length, once per week.
- Students will, as in the past, use their own keyboards in the keyboard lab. The lab has 6 keyboards and students will be spaced appropriately. Students will all face the same direction at their keyboards and will wipe down their keys, iPads, and headphones when the lesson has ended.
- If you prefer private lessons, please talk to me about lessons at my home. I currently teach Monday and Tuesday evenings. I wear a mask when I teach, stagger my students' lessons, and clean after each student.
- If the school moves to online lessons, piano lessons will go online as well. I will record weekly teaching videos for each piano group. Additionally, each group will meet for 35 minutes/week on Zoom to play their piano pieces and music games.

After the forms have been turned in, I will make a lesson schedule. You will receive a note (or e-mail notice if you provide me with your address) to confirm your child's lesson time and starting day. I will consult with the teachers to find the best time for your child's lesson. However, if you have specific concerns about your child's lesson time, feel free to make note of it below. You may return your payment with this sign-up sheet to Mrs. Ambrose in the school office or send the payment separately by September 14. Checks should be made payable to Diane Beckstead.

Attached is also a page detailing costs, payments, scheduling, etc. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: dbeckste@stlukecabot.org or (724) 584-2423.

Thank you! I'm looking forward to working with your child!

Diane Beckstead

St. Luke Piano Lesson Information 2020-2021

GROUP PIANO LESSONS FOR GRADES 2-8

All piano lessons will be taught in groups of 2-3 students. Lessons will be 35 minutes in length, once per week at a time that is least disruptive to the student's class schedule. It is the student's responsibility to make up any classwork missed during their lesson time. Payment should be made to Diane Beckstead.

- One annual tuition fee of \$450 payable by Sept. 14th
- Two biannual payments of \$250 payable Sept. 14th and Jan. 10th
- Families with two children taking piano lessons have the option of paying the annual fee for one child by Sept. 14th and the other child by Jan. 15th.

If the cost of piano lessons poses a financial hardship for your family, please feel free to contact the school office to obtain an application for the Little Maestro Music Fund.

There will be an additional charge for music books. Mrs. Beckstead will purchase books and request reimbursement. Students must have either an electronic keyboard or piano to practice on at home. Several times throughout the school year, students will be asked to provide music for Friday chapel services. Also, in the spring there will be a piano recital which parents and friends are invited to attend. These are great opportunities for students to build their confidence as musicians!

If you feel your child would benefit more from private lessons, Mrs. Beckstead also teaches at her home on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The cost is \$25 for a 30-minute private lesson, payable monthly. For more information, contact Mrs. Beckstead at (724)584-2423.

FIRST GRADE PIANO CLASS

First graders are also offered group piano lessons at a reduced rate. For the first semester, first graders may enroll in Piano Class (this is in addition to the once-per-week classroom music offered to all first graders). In Piano Class, the children will learn the basics of music through keyboard playing, movement, and musical games. The class, which will have no more than 3 students, is held once per week for 35 minutes at a time approved by the classroom teacher. A keyboard or piano will be needed at home. Also, there will be a short weekly written assignment. Costs are:

One semester of First Grade Piano Class

- \$165.00 per semester, including books, due Sept 14th.
- If the child participates in the second semester, another \$165.00 will be due Jan. 15th.

First grade Piano Class is a good opportunity (at a reasonable cost) to explore playing the piano. If your family is experiencing financial hardship, you can contact the school office to apply for the Little Maestro Music Fund. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Beckstead at school or (724)584-2423 with any questions regarding lessons.

Advantages of taking lessons at St. Luke:

1. Students receive quality lessons on studio-grade pianos. Occasionally, they may be asked to play the organ in the church for additional experience.
2. Opportunities to play for others are numerous – chapel services, for classmates, Concordia visits, holiday church services, a talent show and spring piano recital.
3. Taking piano lessons during the day frees up time in the evening for homework or other activities.
4. First-Grade Piano Class is an age-appropriate start to piano playing with a cost much lower than that of other group music classes.
5. Money and time are saved by not commuting to piano lessons afterschool or in the evening.
6. Group lessons are fun, motivating, and musically challenging as students are expected to listen carefully and play rhythmically as an ensemble.
7. School music classes and piano lessons use the same teaching methodology.

Disadvantages of taking lessons at St. Luke:

1. There are no make-up lessons when students are absent unless they are chronically ill. This, however, is true of many music studios. If a student is sick for two consecutive lessons, I will try to find time for an extra lesson.
2. Snow days and late-starts cannot be avoided. These lessons will be made up if at all possible within the class teaching schedule.
3. Field trips, special events, assemblies, and extra program rehearsals may interfere with piano lessons. If at all possible, lesson times are rearranged to accommodate these events.

Diane Beckstead received her Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA and a Masters Degree in Music Education from the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. She has taught since 1984 and currently teaches approximately 15 piano students in her home while maintaining an enrollment of 25-30 piano students at St. Luke. She has taught K-8 music in public and private schools in Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania. As a church musician, she serves as a keyboardist and children's music director at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Each spring, she works as vocal director for the Knoch High School musical. Additionally, she publishes children's musicals to raise awareness of worthwhile organizations and causes through her online company Musicals for Change at musicalsforchange.com.

Piano Lesson Registration

Please return to the St. Luke school office by August 30

Child's name(s) _____ Grade(s) _____

Parent names _____ Best number to reach you _____

E-mail address _____

Has your child taken piano lessons before? _____

If yes, for how many years? _____

Below, indicate how you will be paying: *(Check one)*

Payment enclosed: Cash* _____ Check _____ (to Diane Beckstead)

OR

Will pay separately by September 14 _____

**If sending cash, please be sure your child's name is on the envelope!!!*

Any questions or concerns:
