

The Importance of a Good Piano (Please Read! Look for special offer at end.)

Dear Parents,

How good do you want your kids to be able to play the piano? What does it mean to become a good pianist? How much are you willing to invest in order for them to achieve these goals?

How you answer these questions will determine what kind of instrument you provide for your child. The first “rule of thumb” is: **YOUR CHILD CAN ONLY GET AS GOOD AS THEIR INSTRUMENT!**

We have allowed students to begin on keyboards out of pure practicality. And it is stated in our policies that a keyboard is only allowed for the first 6 months. I have run into numerous situations where I go into a classroom to help out and immediately notice a student’s poor technique playing in the Green Book only to find out they’re still on a keyboard! That breaks my heart! I don’t mean to be harsh but parents are doing their child a disservice by keeping them on a keyboard. Not only will the student develop poor technical habits including very weak finger joints, but also, the longer they stay on a keyboard the more likely they will lose interest in piano altogether!

A keyboard simply functions on a lever system. One simply depresses a key and the sound is automatically generated. On a digital piano or a real, acoustic piano, one generates the sound through ones touch. One has control over the loudness of the sound and the quality of the sound by how one uses their natural arm weight and finger strength. Of course, the extent of how much control one has depends on the quality of the piano. But regardless, this cannot be done or taught on a keyboard!

At the very least, please look into investing in a digital piano. A good digital piano like the ones we use at the studio can accommodate your child’s needs for 4-6 years. Of course, nothing can replace a real piano (assuming a decent one), but for a budget of around \$1000, digital is best. Now if you have high hopes for your child, meaning that you hope they someday pursue Certificate of Merit and develop into expressive, accomplished pianists to their fullest potential, then a grand piano will ultimately be in their future! I have experienced many students’ playing transform and blossom within six months of upgrading to a grand piano.

Please consider your goals for your child when taking piano lessons. And please understand that it is unfair to them and to their teacher to expect them to accomplish anything more than what they can do with the instrument they have at home. I’m happy to discuss any options for your family if you are looking to upgrade. If you have a real piano and would like me to give you an “assessment” as to whether you should consider upgrading, I will be happy to stop by your house for a personal visit! If anyone is interested in purchasing a new Casio Celviano piano, we are offering an extra \$25 OFF our already reduced “special” pricing for FPA families. This offer expires September 31, 2014.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child’s musical education.

Most sincerely,

Jeanette Munroe