

Online or In-Person Lessons

things to consider

- I will assume that students will be doing the same, i.e. in-person or online lessons, as they did the previous week or as previously scheduled. Please let me know **at least 24 hours in advance** if there needs to be a change.
- No one should come for an in-person lesson **if they or anyone in their family** is ill.
- Before beginning an in-person lesson, students will be asked to wash their hands, and I will disinfect the piano keys.
- I will not wear a mask unless the student requests that I do so.
- At present FaceTime, Skype, Google Meets or Zoom are options for online lessons. Usually FaceTime gives the best reception.
- When taking an online lesson, be ready on time. That means the computer, tablet or phone is ready to go, fully charged or plugged in, and already placed at the right angle **BEFORE** time for your lesson. Note that phones are not the best choice of devices. Even though they have good cameras, they are too small for the student to see well. But a phone will do in a pinch.
- The best angle for the device to be set up is from the student's side and a little elevated so that I can see both the student's face and their hands on the keys. If it isn't elevated I can't see fingering. Look at your screen and you can see what I see.
- If you are having trouble getting your device at a good angle, consider investing in a music stand, tablet/computer stand or desk. [This is what I use](#).
- Avoid having other devices connected to Wifi during piano lessons. Consider a Wifi extender/booster or directly connect your device to the modem to get the strongest Wifi possible. [This is what I use](#).
- Keep a pencil at the piano. In fact, keep several pencils at the piano.
- Volume on your device needs to be turned up so that students can hear me. Connecting an external speaker might be a good alternative.

- Keep the pets away from the piano :)
- Whether taking an in-person or online lesson, print out the assignment email **AS SOON AS** the lesson is over so that the student can use it as a guide for their practice during the week. I try to give specific directions in their assignment because I can't write on their music. It does little good if the assignment is not printed at all or not until the day of the next lesson.
- Students with phones have the option to receive and use the assignment on their phone rather than having to print it out.
- If a scheduled online lesson won't work or the internet connection is terrible, consider recording the student playing their assigned lesson, including warmup stuff, scales, etc. and sending the recording for evaluation.
- Online lessons are never as good as in-person lessons. The advantages to online lessons are all non-musical. Via the internet, even with the best connection, it is harder to hear subtleties of dynamics, phrasing, and pedaling, for example. However, I believe students will continue to progress with online lessons, and some actually like them better, imagine that!
- Bottom line, for my schedule it makes no difference whether students come to me or have their lessons online. In-person lessons are more productive and easier to teach, but they take more effort on the part of students and parents. Going forward, I expect that most students to be in-person whenever possible.