

TEN RULES FOR SUCCESS
in PIANO STUDY

1. Bring all current lesson books, solos, FSMTA Student Day packet and notebooks to every lesson. This is your responsibility to gather all materials - not your Mom's.
2. Arrive at your lesson time ready to play. Take time before you arrive to get a drink, visit the bathroom and wash your hands. Have a light snack for extra energy if you need to.
3. No gum chewing during lessons, home practice or recitals. Chewing gum takes concentration away from your practice and performance. Please, no drinks in the studio or near your piano!
4. Be certain you are covering all parts of your assignment every day at home in practice. The first segment of every practice session must be technique - scales, chords, arpeggios, etc. Next should come concentrated **slow** productive practice of new music, being certain to **learn correct notes, fingering, phrasing, dynamics, etc. right from the beginning**. Use a pencil and mark starting notes and unusual places you might otherwise miss. I will be very specific in lessons as to How to Practice - listen for this instruction of good learning principles and then apply them to other new pieces. The last segment of your practice session should be review pieces and memorization. Hold frequent family recitals to show off your new music.
5. Writing assignments are an important part of your weekly lesson and should be completed as assigned. This work should be easily completed on your own after we've covered the concept in the Lessons book. Please bring questions you have to my attention at the beginning of a lesson.
6. You need to be your own teacher at home - especially in using good hand position! Attention to proper hand technique now will allow you to play more difficult music with ease later on. Remember - **Practice makes Permanent!** - not **Perfect**, unless you practice with attention to details. How you use your hands is a very important detail! Judges notice!
7. Finger nails must be kept short enough to allow the flesh of the fingertips to control the keys. You cannot develop a good hand position and good playing technique with fingernails in your way. Check your nails before each practice session and cut them if necessary before you begin.
8. LISTEN! - remember your goal in learning to play the piano is to delight the ears with beautiful sounds. If you stop listening, you might as well be playing a computer keyboard!! Active listening takes concentration and allows you to get the most out of each practice session. The results in performance will make you stand out above others and delight all who hear you.
9. Set a goal to memorize at least one new piece or section of one each week. Memorization includes not only notes, but also phrasing, dynamics, fingering - all musical details.
10. Never say "I can't". There is always a way if you are determined to succeed.

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