

MDA Piano Academy – Studio Policy

Studio Philosophy & Learning Approach

At MDA Piano Academy, piano lessons are approached as a process of learning rather than a race toward results. Progress is not measured solely by speed or immediate outcomes. Each student develops at a different pace, and lessons are shaped with attention to individual readiness, physical coordination, and musical understanding.

Learning does not begin only when a student plays the piano. Observation, listening, sensing movement, and understanding how sound is produced are integral parts of the lesson experience. Body awareness, perception, and musical expression are treated as interconnected, not separate skills.

This approach supports long-term development, healthy technique, and a deeper relationship with music. While it may not align with every expectation or learning style, it reflects the values that guide teaching at MDA Piano Academy.

Academic Calendar

The academic year runs from after the Labour Day weekend to the end of June and is divided into three semesters. July and August are offered separately as a flexible Summer Semester.

Fall Semester: September–December

Winter Semester: January–March

Spring Semester: April–June

Summer Semester: July–August

The Summer Semester offers flexible scheduling. Students may choose from four (4) or six (6) lessons. Students who wish to reserve their lesson time for the following academic year are required to take a minimum of four (4) summer lessons.

The Summer Semester is offered as a separate, optional session and is not intended to function as a make-up period for lessons missed during the academic year.

Holidays and Breaks

There are no lessons on statutory holidays or during school breaks. These non-instructional days are not eligible for make-up lessons.

Special Scheduling Notes

Lessons are available in person or online.

Travel lessons (at students' homes) are not offered.

Lessons may be suspended for special professional obligations, including workshops, performances, or conferences.

Active Parental Participation

Active parental involvement plays an important role in supporting a child's musical learning. Parents are encouraged to listen, invite their child to share music, and create a positive environment around practice without directing or correcting every detail.

Learning is a collaborative process involving the teacher, the student, and the parents. When each plays their role with care and consistency, students are able to develop confidence, independence, and a lasting relationship with music.

Attendance & Lesson Flexibility

Enrollment reserves a dedicated weekly lesson time during the academic year. Tuition is based on enrollment rather than attendance.

The lesson schedule includes built-in flexibility equivalent to additional instructional time beyond the minimum number of scheduled lessons. This structure supports occasional absences while maintaining continuity in learning.

When absences occur, reasonable efforts are made to offer make-up lessons within the limits of the schedule. Because flexibility is already incorporated into the yearly structure, frequent absences may not always allow all missed lessons to be rescheduled.

All make-up lessons must be completed within the same academic year and cannot be carried over.

Tuition Philosophy

Tuition is based on enrollment rather than attendance and is not calculated on a per-lesson basis. It reflects a structured learning program that includes reserved lesson time, planning, preparation, communication, professional development, and studio maintenance.

Termination Policy

Students are expected to commit to lessons for the full academic year. One month's written notice is required to discontinue lessons before the end of the contracted term.

Home Instrument

All students are required to have an instrument and an adjustable piano bench at home. While an acoustic piano is recommended, a high-quality keyboard with 88 weighted keys and pedals is acceptable for beginners.

Health and Studio Conduct

For the health and safety of all students and staff, students should attend lessons only when symptom-free. Online lessons may be offered when appropriate.

Students are expected to arrive with clean hands and appropriate studio conduct. The studio environment should be treated with care and respect.

Teacher Responsibilities

Providing a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment is a priority at MDA Piano Academy.

Limited hands-on guidance may be used to support healthy technique and movement, always with professionalism and student comfort in mind.