Know Your Students

Get to know the parents of your students and have a partner at home. Use these questions to get to know what is going on in the life of your student at home. Learning about the family can help you set realistic expectations about practice. Make it easy for the parents to help their kids.

About this questionnaire:
Make answering these questions easy. This is an opportunity to learn about what is going on in the lives of your students when you are not with them. Understanding the burdens of the parents, particularly when you have younger students will help you help them. This is NOT homework for parents. It may be easier for you to ask the questions and fill out the forms yourself. Parents who work, have young children at home, and act as chauffeurs generally want ways to make their lives easier and less stressful.

Learning to play a musical instrument is hard work and takes a lot of time, practice and patience. Lessons with a teacher are often just once a week. Since most students do the majority of their learning at home after a lesson, understanding the home situation and caring about the parents goes a long way to the success of your students.

This questionnaire is divided into 4 parts.
It may seem like there are a lot of questions that have nothing to do with learning, however, as a stressed out parent myself, I know if someone listened to me, gave me appreciation and wanted to make my life easier I would be thrilled.

★ Learn about the parents
★ Learn about your student
★ Learn about the instrument
★ Learn about the expectations
1. Are both parents at home?

2. Who is involved most with getting homework done?

3. Who will be responsible for making sure your child practices the piano and does theory homework?

4. Who will be responsible for making sure your child gets to lessons on time and with all the necessary materials?

5. What is the music history of the family?

6. Does anyone in the family at home play a musical instrument (if yes, what)?

7. Does music get played at home (if yes, what type and how often)?

8. Do you go to live music concerts?

9. Do you take your children to live music concerts?

10. Why do you want your child to learn to play the piano?
1. What activities is the student involved in?

2. How high is learning to play the piano in the list of activities that the student is involved in?

3. How much time will the student commit to piano study every day?

4. Does the student have any audio, visual or physical impairments I should know about? (if yes, list here)

5. Why does the student want to take piano lessons?

6. Does the student need to be constantly reminded to do homework?

7. Do you or a family member help the student with homework?

8. How much time does the student spend on homework a day on average?

9. Does your child play any other instruments (if yes, list)?
1. How long do you expect it will take for your child to learn the piano?

2. Do you expect your child to work independently at home?

3. How much time do you think you will spend working with your child?

4. Will your child practice on weekends, school holidays and summer vacations?

5. Do you think your child should be at the piano every day?

6. Is daily practice optional or mandatory?

7. Do you or a family member help the student with homework?

8. How much time does the student spend on homework a day on average?

9. Does your child play any other instruments (if yes, list)?

10. When do you expect your child to practice, how long and how often?
1. Do you have a piano?

2. Is it acoustic or electric?

3. Do all the keys work?

4. Is it in tune?

5. Does it have 88 weighted keys?

6. Are there rules about when the piano can be played?

7. Does it share a room with a TV?

8. Is there proper lighting in the room with the piano?

9. Is there space by the piano for music books?

10. Does the piano have a mute or volume control?

11. Is there a proper bench or seat for the instrument?