

Learn the details about the Piano with Friends, level 1 beginner group piano class

PIANO WITH FRIENDS, level 1 (1PWF)

Details:

Age: 5-8 (Kindergarten-Third grade)

* (We recommend students age 8/grade 3 get an evaluation from a teacher regarding placement in PWF or Piano Express)

Class Size: 4-6 students

Price: \$1200

New Student Fee- \$110 (upon enrollment- due by start of class)

Encore Enrollment- \$110 (to hold spot for continuing enrollment- due April-May)

Choose from 3 billing options:

1. 10 monthly installments of \$109 from Aug-May or Sept.- June
2. 2 installments of \$600
3. Pay in full (5% discount if paid by August 31)- \$1140

Instrument: Piano

Sopranojam Music Studio provides full size semi-weighted keyboards for student classes. Students should have a keyboard at home on which they can play as well!

What is Piano With Friends, level 1?

- Kids will teach their fingers to play, their ears to hear, and their voices to sing as they explore making music on the piano keyboard in this original group piano program created by Julie Stone.
- Students learn to play patterns, melodies, and even simple harmony by the end of the year!
- Stories, games, activities, singing, and playing by ear, by rote, and patterns form the first year of Piano with Friends.
- We focus on piano geography and finger dexterity and coordination before we learn to read staff notes.

Why Piano with Friends 1?

- Making music is most fun in community! Allowing children the opportunity to join their friends in making music both with their own voices and the piano keyboard makes piano lessons the highlight of the week!

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- Students learn through hearing music, singing, stories, patterns, and “fingerise”! All the things that kids naturally gravitate towards as they learn. (We save staff reading for level 2!)
- Pre-readers and early readers can still learn to play piano with our curriculum with parental oversight.
- When it comes to recitals, many of our students beg to play more than 1 song because we have taught them how to prepare and share their music along the way.
- Lesson pacing is conservative to allow plenty of time for young fingers and minds to grasp the concepts.

How does Piano with Friends 1 help families?

- It’s not a fight to get kids to go to music lessons! Kids love coming to class and enjoy their hour long lesson!
- We have video tutorials to help moms and dads help their kids when they don’t remember what to do (and the parents have no clue! ;-))
- The pacing of the course takes a busy family into consideration and includes variations that allow individuals to succeed at their own level, with “Virtuoso Challenges” for those who want to learn more and “Modifications” for those who need simplifications.
- It brings kids and parents together as parents provide accountability at home for accomplishing songs.

What do students learn in Piano with Friends?

General Overview: Students are learning the geography of the piano, how to get their fingers to work, and then how to coordinate their hands to play 2 different things at the same time! We call that melody and harmony!

Music Fluencies:

1. Students will learn, practice, and master songs with a guided system.
2. Students will find and maintain a sense of beat in a song.
3. Students will hear and replicate pitch direction.
4. Students will be able to follow pre-staff reading of music.
5. Students will become fluent in piano geography using 5-finger positions.
6. Students will understand note direction and the music alphabet.
7. Students will be able to play triads.

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8. Students will develop individual finger dexterity and 2 hand coordination.
9. Students will be able to switch from I to V7 chords easily.
10. Students will master 3 pentascales with LH chord accompaniment.
11. Students will be able to transpose songs to a minor key.
12. Students will be able to read rhythm notes and count fluently.

How do I know if my child is ready for Piano with Friends 1?

First, it's totally ok to wait on music lessons! Don't feel pressured that your child **MUST** begin music lessons in early elementary school. There is room to wait. Truly. And for some children, that is the best thing you can do!

Here are some considerations we recommend to determine if your child is ready for 1PWF.

1. If your child loves making music through singing or exploring the keyboard, they are almost certainly ready for this beginner level class!
2. If your child plays melodies by ear, they will do very well in this class!
3. Here are a few other considerations as you decide whether now is the time or if your child should wait.
 - a. Can the child wiggle each individual finger with relative ease? (The ring and pinky fingers will be more difficult.)
 - b. Can the child firmly press the keys of a keyboard/piano (if you don't have one try having them place rounded hands on a table top and have them tap each finger.)
 - c. Is the child able to see patterns and follow symbols on a page?
 - d. Is the child able to focus on learning in a class setting (that can sometimes be loud due to many keyboards playing at once!)
 - e. Do you expect your child to practice/play alone? If so, they will need to be able to read and self-direct from an assignment sheet. (We recommend that parents aid in the practicing process as we're teaching the students *how* to effectively practice.)