



Guidelines & Expectations for MMS Lower Haight students

1. PRACTICE

Practice at home is the single most important part of being a musician, and is an absolute requirement for being a member of the MMS family. At MMS progress is our expectation, after all, progress is what keeps students excited and inspired. And practice at home is the *only* way to make progress. Developing a healthy practice routine, like any habit, can be a very exciting journey. And we are here to help you develop that habit every step of the way.

All MMS students will receive a practice log to keep track of their practice - please fill it out! Parents, please help your students keep track of their practice time (get a timer and put it next to the piano) and fill out their practice log each week so teachers can be aware of their practice routines at home.

MMS Practice Suggestions:

Children: 20 - 30 minutes, 5 days a week

Adults: 30 - 60 minutes, 5 - 6 days a week

More practice time is never discouraged, however efficiency in practice is much more important than long hours. Learning the Art of Practice is a critical part of being a musician.

Please see our two practice articles (in this Welcome packet) for great tips on mastering the art of practice, written by our very own MMS teachers specifically with the MMS students in mind:

5 Tips for Helping Your Child Succeed at Piano (and enjoy it too!)

PRACTICE PROWESS - *Mastering the Art of Practice*

2. LESSON EXPECTATIONS

- Please wash your hands before each lesson, particularly after snack time!
- Please keep fingernails short so we can help you develop excellent technique
- Please remember to bring all books, your notebook with your teacher notes, your blue MMS folder and your practice log to **EVERY** lesson
- Parents are welcome and encouraged to sit-in on students' *first lesson* to get an idea of how lessons are conducted and to understand expectations. After the first lesson we find that students benefit from developing their own independent relationship with their teacher. This helps children to feel less self-conscious about mistakes, be less distracted, and to develop independence in their process. This also helps their practice time at home to be self-motivated, therefore allowing them to take ownership of their musical journey. You'd be surprised to know that children are often much more open and free to explore, and even more focused, when parents are not in the room! MMS teachers will make sure that parents understand practice expectations at the end of each lesson for the coming week.

Parents of students ages 5 and under, please check in with your teacher to see what their preference is in regards to parent attendance in the lesson - some children may need further assistance in the lesson

- Student notebooks are your piano journals or logbooks - they are a record of everything that is covered in each lesson and outline all that is to be practiced each week. All MMS teachers will write down very clearly the practice expectations. Students are encouraged to keep their notebook open at their piano or keyboard during the week. Parents, please refer to the notebook if there are any questions regarding what students should work on and to guide your students with their practice at home.

3. LOBBY ETIQUETTE

- **Children under the age of 16 MAY NOT be left unattended in the lobby.** While we have security measures in place (locked doors with codes for only current students), we cannot be responsible for your children when they are not in a lesson with their teacher. Our teachers are committed to focusing on their students and are not responsible for other children (siblings, friends, etc). All lessons at MMS are private lessons. Siblings and friends are not permitted to sit in on lessons. If you have siblings/friends in lessons back to back, it is your responsibility to care for the child that is not in the lesson by either staying with them in the lobby or picking them up and coming back at the end of the full hour. Thank you for your help in keeping our students and our property secure and safe!
- The curtains in the front studio, though sound-deadening, are not sound-proof. Please keep conversations at a low volume and be respectful of lessons in progress.
- Feel free to enjoy snacks in the lobby and please do your best to clean up crumbs and wrappers on your way out - there is a trash can in the hallway for your use.
- When you arrive, teachers are often in session. Please simply enter your code and let yourself in. Your teacher will come get you when it is time for your lesson. **DOOR CODE IS 2263
(BAND)**

4. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

For all correspondence to MMS, please contact MMS administrator, Naomi Markle, at info@mcallistermusicstudiosf.com or 415-205-9734.

MMS teachers DO NOT handle scheduling - please do not ask them to reschedule, change, or makeup a lesson. Naomi in our office is ready and willing to handle this for you. :)

For **SAME DAY CANCELLATIONS OR IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE, text 415-658-7815** and your teacher will receive the message. (please put this number in your phone now! & please note that this is for text only, and is not able to receive calls).

Our commitment to you is that you have the most inspiring and rewarding lesson experience possible. Thank you for working together with us to make this possible!