

# EXPLORING PIANO

## with SARAH ELY

### Meet the Tutor:

- Sarah has over 20 years experience teaching piano.
- She lives in Three Rivers with her husband, three school-aged children, and two sweet and silly cats.
- Sarah teaches using classical and traditional methods, but encourages exploration of varied musical genres, motifs, and rhythms.
- Her greatest desire is to help the student progress while learning to ENJOY playing music.
- Common methods used: Alfred, Bastien, and Faber, with supplemental material as needed or desired.
- She grew up listening to classical music, as well as rock, folk, jazz, and pop, but loves exposing new ears to all styles of music.
- She currently participates in leading worship at the home church she and her family attends.
- In her spare time she loves gardening, playing piano, biking, line dancing, barre classes, going to the beach, writing poetry, and being with her family and friends

Offering piano lessons for school-age children of varied abilities, starting as young as age seven. Students will pursue theory and technical growth as well as expanding aural awareness and free-form composition, through creative exploration of the notes on the grand staff. Chord-focused learning, with an emphasis on learning to play worship music or pop/rock selections is another skill set that can be developed by teaching foundational chord comprehension and usage.

YEARLY GOALS: to learn the grand staff and identify notes within it, to understand basic rhythm and sing and/or drum to master different time signatures, to learn how to practice well, and commit to regular practice during the week (usually 3-5 days), to learn to compose simple improvisations, to create musical stories on the piano through dynamics, to perform duets to help solidify technical piano skills, and much more. Desired curriculum/study focus will be decided at the first lesson with the student and parent or guardian.

**FINANCIAL PLANNING INFORMATION**  
25 minute weekly lesson cost: \$25  
Please contact Sarah to arrange your payment plan. (Choose your option below)



Sarah Ely  
@Sarah-Ely-36



**venmo**

**Tutor's contact info:**  
(269) 588-0293  
[elysarahc@gmail.com](mailto:elysarahc@gmail.com)

Sarah Ely



Scan to pay Sarah Ely

### **TWO PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

1. **SELF-PAY:** For all **self-pay** (cash / check / Venmo / PayPal) students, there are three payment options. You may choose to send payment with your student as follows:
  - a. \$25 at each **weekly** lesson (payment must be brought to lesson)
  - b. Pay ahead at the beginning of each **month**
  - c. Payment at the beginning of each **semester** (two \$425 payments per year)

2. **LAMP-FUNDED PAYMENTS** (see below)

- **LAMP Tuition totals a maximum of \$800/year (or \$100/mo)**

Please let me know as soon as possible (after registering) what your personal monthly allotted payment amount will be for LAMP the upcoming year.

Families are responsible for any balance that is not paid by LAMP. The balance (non-refundable) will be due at the first lesson for LAMP students. (Lamp students must pay their balance as a lump sum.) Families are required to self-pay for any missed LAMP payments due to dropping after the second lesson or not meeting LAMP requirements.

### **Illness Policy**

If 24-hour notice is not given for an absence, the lesson tuition for that day will remain due at the following week's lesson.

### **INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION**

- Material fees equivalent to approximately \$20 will help to cover initial book costs, office fees, recital hall rental costs, and other expenses. Any additional materials will be added to the lesson costs as the student progresses, and I will bill you as they reach each new level of curriculum.
- After completing your online registration, please plan to pay the supply fee. Once registered, I will email you the payment information.

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- A student should choose and purchase their own small notebook to bring to each lesson for lesson notes, homework and helpful comments.
- The purchase of a metronome is recommended, but not required. There are also apps available like “Modern Metronome” that will serve the same purpose.
- Recital participation is greatly encouraged, but not mandatory. It can be discussed and decided per family.
- There are also opportunities to pursue participation with the National Federation of Music Clubs, and or National Piano Guild Auditions.

### TO DO CHECKLIST (BEFORE CLASSES START)

- Register for piano online through the REACH website for your preferred time slot.
- Contact Sarah with your choice of payment option soon after registering for classes.
- Mail a check or send digital payment for the \$20 materials fee after registering.
- Buy a notebook for your student for lesson notes and assignments.
- Decide what your student's piano goals will be for the year (ie. traditional piano method, or chord based learning).