**2nd- 5th Group Piano** I

**2019-2020**

**Grade Level:** 2nd -5th Grade **Teacher:** Dr. Kelly Freije

**Day/Time:** Tuesday 9:00-10:00 **Class Cost:** $120/Year

**Length of Course:** 24-week trimester schedule **Supply Fee:** $10.00

**Required Materials:** The Music Tree: Time to Begin and Time to Begin Activities by Clark, Goss, and Holland.

**Class Information:** Learning a musical instrument is important to the developing child’s brain! Musical training dramatically impacts a child’s brain structure, and enhances their memory, spatial reasoning, and language skills. A 2013 study found that “actively learning to play an instrument can help a child’s academic achievement.” Your child will be *actively learning* to play the piano in a fun and engaging way. We will work through The Music Tree: Time to Begin, as well as participate in fun musical activities during class. The children will have opportunities to play what they have prepared for the class, if desired. Your child does not need any prior piano knowledge to take this class. It is for beginning piano students.

**Homework:** If your child is able to practice the piano throughout the week, then they will make much progress. If your child is unable to practice the piano throughout the week, then they will make less progress. The class is designed to help children familiarize themselves with the piano and to read music through engaging and fun activities. Even if your child is not able to practice much outside of class time, they will still learn.

**Parent Involvement:** Research shows that student success in playing an instrument is greatly enhanced when parents assist in the learning. Any time you can help your student to practice, listen to the pieces they are working on, or just give encouraging verbal support, it will benefit your child greatly.

**Biblical Worldview:** Over the duration of this year, I will show the children when music was used in the Bible and how it glorified God. We will also learn to play some hymns and familiar church songs so that the children can share those with loved ones.

**Teacher Background:** Hello! I am Dr. Freije andI absolutely love teaching piano! I earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Western Michigan University, a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, and a Doctor of Arts degree in Piano Performance and Music Education from Ball State University. I currently teach as an Adjunct Piano Professor at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN teaching class piano, and as an Adjunct Professor at Indiana University-Kokomo for their online Music Appreciation classes. My husband and I have 4 children, all of whom are home-educated and attend Wisdom Builders.

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