

Diane Hidy's Piano Teaching Questionnaire

This survey is designed to help you understand yourself, what you enjoy doing, and the work you're best suited to do at this time in your life. Remember that this will change over time.

Once you know what it is you want, you can move toward to making that a reality.

Start by completing this survey. Answer each question honestly. Next, find a trusted colleague and encourage them to take the survey. In the process of sharing and comparing your results, you will discover a great deal about yourself. Your colleague could even be on the other side of the globe! With technology, you could pick someone you like from an online group and share results.

Be completely honest in your responses. Your goal is to clarify and envision the best work life for yourself. Your answers will help show your niche market. When you have figured out your niche, you can design a studio policy that works specifically for you.

There are no wrong answers. If you can't stand teaching 4-year-olds, then admit it!

When?

Plan a schedule that will work for you and your family.

Each week I would like to teach about this many hours:

In order to teach this many hours, I expect to spend this many hours doing work associated with teaching:

Remember to include paperwork, selecting repertoire, meetings, phone calls and email.

These are my preferred teaching days:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

I'm at my best teaching in the:

- Early morning (before school)
- Mid-morning
- Early afternoon
- Late afternoon
- Evening

I'd like to teach :

- year-round
- _____ weeks off in the winter
- _____ weeks off in the spring
- _____ weeks off in the summer
- Other:

Many holidays fall on Mondays.

If you have regular students on Mondays, you will need to accommodate these holidays.

- I prefer to teach on Mondays and will accommodate these holidays.
- I prefer to schedule regular students on other days.

Do you or your students have religious considerations that will affect your business schedule?

If so, notate it here:

Do you have family obligations that make certain times completely off-limits for teaching?

If so, notate it here:

Who?

Questions about the ages and levels you most enjoy teaching.

I feel most comfortable teaching students who are:

- Beginners
- Intermediate
- Advanced

My favorite ages to work with are:

- Toddlers
- ages 5 - 10 - Elementary School
- ages 11 - 14 - Middle School
- ages 15 - 18 - High School
- Young adults and College students
- Adults
- Retired
- Elderly

I enjoy working with students:

- individually
- in small groups
- in large groups
- in master classes

I least like teaching:

For instance, if you like preschoolers, but not in groups, notate this type of preference here.

I am qualified to and enjoy teaching children and adults with special needs.

If you have special skills related to this area of teaching, notate it here:

Do you have family obligations that will affect your ability to schedule lessons?

If so, briefly describe your family situation. This will include children, childcare, elderly parents or special needs of anyone for whom you're responsible.

What?

These questions deal with the kinds of materials you'll use, and the type(s) of music you'll teach.

I enjoy teaching:

- Classical Music
- Pop Music
- Composition
- Improvisation
- Show Tunes
- Simplified Classics
- Jazz
- Theory
- Ear Training
- Other:

I dread teaching:

- Classical Music
- Pop Music
- Composition
- Improvisation
- Show Tunes
- Simplified Classics
- Other:

Do you like to use Method Books? If so, list your favorites.

Check as many of these as apply to you

- I like to use familiar materials.
- I love trying new things, especially newly published music.
- I often need input from others to help me choose repertoire.

When teaching, I tend to emphasize:

Check as many of these as apply

- Hand position
- Sight reading
- Shape and phrasing of melodies
- Composition
- Improvisation
- Ear Training
- Duet and ensemble playing
- Other:

Personal Preferences

Things to consider before you set a policy.

What will your students call you?

Will they call you Mr. or Mrs. Johnson? Ms. Elise? Miss Sadie?

The tone of my studio will be

- Casual - I like to teach in jeans and a T-shirt
- Dress Casual - I wear nice slacks, or a casual skirt
- Formal. I dress up to teach and expect students to dress up for lessons.

I teach my best when:

- A parent sits quietly in on their child's lesson.
- A parent actively participates in the lesson.
- The parent doesn't come into the room where the lesson happening.
- The parent stays out of it all together.

I plan to teach:

- My home, in the living room where my piano is
- My home, in a studio in a separate room
- Students' homes
- Music Store
- Other:

What kind of instrument does your student need at home?

- Acoustic piano only
- Acoustic piano preferred, keyboard acceptable
- Weighted 88-key digital piano
- Any keyboard is fine

Do you students have to agree to practice?

If so, how will they quantify their practice?

Will you have any group lessons or master classes?

If so, how often?

- Monthly
- Twice a year
- Once a year
- Other:

Will you encourage your students to perform in the community?

If so, where?

- Retirement homes
- Churches
- Local Music Teachers Organization Recitals
- School Performances
- Music Club Competitions
- Other:

Do you plan to enter your students in organized evaluation programs?

If so, which ones?

Will you have recitals?

- Yes
- No

At my recitals

Check as many as apply

- All of my students will participate.
- Some of my students will participate.
- All pieces must be memorized.
- Some pieces must be memorized.
- Students can use or not use music as they wish.
- Students can choose whether or not to participate in recitals.

Do you enjoy preparing students for competition?

- I love it.
- I don't like competitions, but they're a necessary evil.
- I won't be a part of anything involving a competition.
- Other:

Do you belong to any Music Teaching organizations or clubs?

If so, list them. If not, list any you plan to join in the near future.

Money

The nuts and bolts of how your studio will work.

Ideally, I'd like to be paid by the:

- Lesson
- Week
- Month (9 months of school)
- Year-round monthly payments
- Semester

Do you find it difficult to maintain emotional distance from your students and their families? If so, is there a way to organize your tuition and billing to make it more professional?

List some ways you could be more professional in your business.

Do you plan to offer discounts to any students?

If you plan to do it, please explain it here. (This is not recommended.)

Do you have a cancellation policy that serves you well?

If so, write it here in a few sentences. If not, investigate others and form one that will work for you and your life.

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