



If you have never taught piano in a group setting the plan suggested here will only contribute to your peace of mind and success.

If you are a veteran at group piano teaching the resources listed here might spark a few new ideas for you to implement.

Creating a piano camp in the summer is a good way to bring your students together for longer periods of time, review of note reading, rhythms and other piano skills in a fun and creative way.

The legal stuff...

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Thanks. I knew you would understand...

Before Your 30 Days Begin

Repertoire

The first thing that needs to be decided is- what music will you be teaching? I find that if I am certain about the music everything else falls into place.

Here are a few programs that I have used:

[KiddyKeys](#) (ages 3 & 4)

[MightyMusicians](#) (ages 5-6)

[My Piano Trip to London](#) (ages 5 -6)

[Roadtrip!](#) (ages 6 -7)

[“Way Cool” Keyboarding 4Kids](#) (ages 7 - 10)

Dates

Get your calendar out and cross out the dates that you will be out of town or days you will not be teaching. Or...survey the parents of your current students to find out what dates they are available. Scheduling can sometimes be the most challenging part of planning. **There is no secret sauce!** Every teacher will have to find out what works in their community.Period.

How long will each camp be?

Several weeks?

One week only offered multiple times?

1 hour for 5 days?

2 hours for 4 days?

What will you do during that amount of time?

Work with the calendar right now, so when parents come asking for more information, you are able to share your plans with confidence.

The 30 Day Plan

Day 1 -

Today send out an email with the exciting news about Piano Camp. Post it in your waiting area. Print flyers for the students to take home. Talk about it to your students. EVERY WEEK. Create a blank page with the title Need to Buy. Keep it close to this 30 day plan and on it write down the things you will need to purchase for PC. Each time you remember an item, write it down. You will go to the store on day 25.

Make sure everyone knows and understands when piano camp tuition is due. Payment in full should be paid by Day 24.

Day 2 -

Order the piano books. If you worked on the Before the 30 Day Plan then you should have a fairly good idea of how many students you will have for summer camp.

Will you be ordering T-shirts? Your order needs to be placed today.

Day 3 - Design your Class Routine. Here is one suggestion for a 2 hour class

- **Warm-up (15 m)** A class with young students could begin with music circle time older students may begin with free time at their keyboards or an ice breaker activity.
- **Music Conference (5 m)** Everyone meets at a designated area (floor, table, grand piano, etc.) where the teacher shares with the students the activities/schedule for the day.
- **Piano Time (20 m)** Piano Time is where you teach the new piece or piano skill, everyone gathered around the Teacher piano. If you are only using one piano then have a plan for everyone to get a chance to try out the new song together. If you have individual pianos give them a chance to practice and play out loud together as a group
- **BREAK (5 min)** *restroom, water, or an outdoor activity if possible.*

- **Table Time** (10 m) *work on composition, music theory, or workbook.*
- **Piano Time** (15 m) Begin at the Teacher's Piano and introduce new concepts or skills. Allow students to take turns playing together at one piano or move to their individual pianos.
- **Game Time** (10 min) This is the time to incorporate your board game, drumming, composition, or any other fun activity.
- **Music Conference** (10 min) end the session with improvisation at the piano, with rhythm instruments, dancing or parents joining the class to learn about the exciting day at piano camp.

Day 4 -

Check all the headphones (if using any). Are they in working order? Purchase new ones if necessary.

Day 5 -

Check all the keyboards. Will you need to have batteries in stock? Are the keyboards working? Are they all equipped with the sound effects you would like? Which keyboard can do what? Make a note of the type of batteries you will need.

If only using one piano take the time to experiment and write down the different ways students will all be able to play the piano during piano camp.

Day 6 - Plan your Icebreakers. This is an option during warm up time of the class. There are so many ideas online - find those that are age appropriate.

Day 7 - Start promoting the Piano Camp final performance or parent visitation day. Send emails, post on your Studio Face Book page, print flyers if this info was not on original flyer. You want your community to be aware and invited.

Day 8 - Have you received the books you ordered? Do you know when they arrive? If you have already received, check and double check that you have enough.

Day 9 -

Make your lesson plan following the suggestion listed in Day 3. But today you will write down every detail. Page numbers, games, worksheets. Everything must be written in your plan. Everything.

Day 10 -

Review the [reasons why](#) you will be teaching piano in a group setting.

Day 11 -

What is your plan for classroom management? Make one today. [Here are a few suggestions to get you started.](#)

Day 12 -

Incentives. Just one more thing to think about! I sometimes avoid them because I would like the joy of making music to be the reward. However, sometimes I get that special group of kids that need a little “something” more! If you strongly believe you need them, then this is the time to plan for it.

Day 13 -

T-Shirts? For many years I ordered t-shirts for piano camp. And that was before the ease of doing it online! If this is a part of your initial budget then you should be checking up on your order and delivery today.

Day 14 -

Take a break. In roughly two weeks your piano camp will be underway. Enjoy some free time from planning (or catch up on any of the previous tasks that you were not able to complete.

Day 15 -

How is summer camp enrollment coming along?

Are there enough students for several groups? How will you divide the groups?

Do you need to order more books?

Day 16 -

Where will the final performance be held? This should have been decided before the start of the 30 day plan. Is it confirmed? Have you paid the deposit?

Day 17 -

Transportation. How will you move the keyboards to the performance hall? If the performance will take place at your studio, where will the audience sit?

Day 18 -

Refreshments. Did you include a plan for snacks during summer camp? Are parents providing? Are you? What about water bottles? Will you have refreshments after the performance? Does your schedule include the lunch hour? Will you provide lunch? Will they bring their own?

Day 19 -

Whew! It seems like another break is in order... Are you kidding me? There's no way. right now you need to make sure you have entered a record of payments and expenses in your in your bookkeeping log. I know. Not my favorite thing to do either. If you have already done this, take the break!

Day 20 -

Any new recruits? Do you feel like you need to walk the streets and tell everyone about piano camp? Then go! I prefer to send emails and post on FaceBook and Instagram.

Day 21 -

Are there any loose ends? Is there something you have not been able to prepare for piano camp? Do it today!

Day 22 -

Today is the day you read/sing through it (hopefully today is not your first time...) and practice. Yes. How are you going to teach it? Are you pleased with your lesson plan? Is it it to follow?

Day 23 -

Practice all the games. Do you know the instructions? Do you have all the game pieces? Gather your friends and family. Practice. Are there any accompaniment tracks for the songs you are teaching? If you did not get a chance to use them today on day 27 you will tackle this task.

Day 24 -

Tuition is due. In Full.

Three students. Is that your enrollment so far?

Would I have a piano camp with just three students? Definitely! Don't give up. Keep a positive attitude and remember you are gaining valuable experience!

Day 25 -

Shopping Day. Remember the list you've been adding to since day 1? Today is the day you scratch everything off as you find them all around town.

Day 26 - Tuition payments were due two days ago! If someone has not paid, then take the time to make those phone calls and send those emails and texts. This is my least favorite part of the job, but it has to get done. This is your livelihood!

Day 27 -

Another chance to practice the lesson plan.

How is your enrollment?

Day 28 -

Make copies of the worksheets that will be needed or if using iPads today is the day you check that all the pages are in that special location the students will have access to.

Do you have pencils? Eraser? Color pencils? Clipboards? Table space?

Day 29 -

Play through all the music the students will be learning. Make any special markings that might be trouble spots in your copy.

How will you teach each of the songs?

Day 30 -

Today you will go over the lesson plan and as you go over each section make sure to check that you have all materials for each student.

Check the keyboards. Did you remember to put in new batteries?

Put names on the books.

Have all the copies ready to go.

Are pencils sharpened?

If you are also the “cleaning lady” at your studio...check that you have enough bathroom supplies.

Where are you stashing the snacks?

Email reminders need to go out today!

Rearrange the room if necessary.

Tomorrow is the big day!

Congratulations! You have everything ready to teach your piano camp!