

# KEYBOARD KIDS COMPANION

CREATED BY TEACHERS. *Approved by kids!*

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## ASK THE TEACHERS!

**Q:** *My life is changing a lot lately! My lessons used to be at my teacher's studio. Then we went online. Now we are sometimes meeting at her studio, and sometimes online. Between this and my other activities, I have trouble finding the chance to practice. What should I do?*

A: Life has changed a lot for everyone. Most students had many, if not all, lessons online for a long time. Many are still having remote lessons. But some, like you, are moving toward hybrid or back to in-person lessons. The same is true with some of our other activities. It depends on where you live. All of these changes make organizing our piano practice schedule a special challenge.

You described perfectly why you are having trouble fitting in your piano practicing—"Chance." With our busier-than-ever lives, activities left to "chance" simply slip off the "to-do" list.

A simple two-step process can ensure that your practicing happens every day:

1. Create a written schedule plan.
2. Stick to it!

You may have heard how to keep your bedroom and study area organized: "A place for everything, and everything in its place."

Schedules are no different. Try this Keyboard Kids plan to establish a schedule for a successful school year:

1. Sit down with a parent or your teacher and a blank weekly schedule.
2. Write two lists. *Be sure to include commute times to and from your activities.*  
**List A:** Activities that are required or already on your schedule.  
 (Examples: Wake-up time, getting ready for school, meals, school, chores, homework, piano practice, a hobby or club, religious services, exercise, free time, bedtime)  
**List B:** Activities you would like to consider adding to your schedule.  
 (Examples: Sports team, Scout troop meetings)
3. Write the activities from **List A** on your weekly schedule where each one fits. See what time is available for adding another activity from **List B** without squeezing out regular piano practicing.
4. Try coding each activity with a color or symbol to see at a glance where everything fits and how much time it needs.

If some of your activities are a combination of remote and in-person ones requiring a commute, choose the commuter weeks for your schedule. For the weeks online, without the commute, there is extra time to practice!

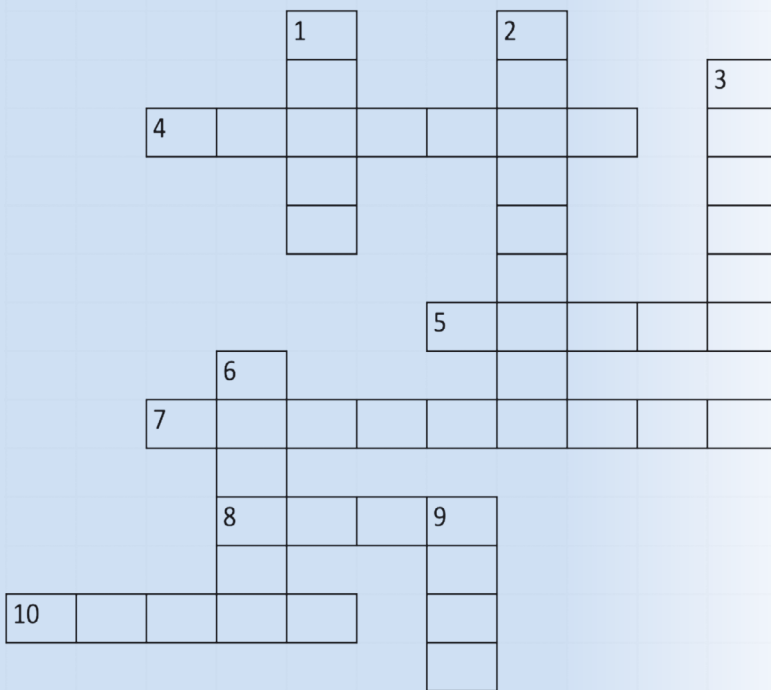


***Be cautious as you resume more in-person activities: Everyone is excited. It's tempting to jump into lots of activities. Participating in a variety of activities gives us a well-rounded life and makes us better musicians. But it's very important that you don't become overscheduled. Overscheduling results in not doing anything well.***



## BACK TO SCHOOL MUSIC REVIEW

Learn or review these symbols, terms, and practice tips and tools for a great start to your piano practice this year.



### Across

4. = Hold for a little extra time  
 5. \_\_\_\_\_ for excellent rhythm and pulse  
 7. = Get louder little by little  
 8. Clef: Shows notes Middle C and below  
 10. \_\_\_\_\_ work helps you to analyze your playing  
 (Tool used by sports coaches as well)

### Down

1. ***f*** = \_\_\_\_\_ = play loudly  
 2. A \_\_\_\_\_ helps with choosing tempo and steady playing  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ sign: = Go back to beginning or to **||**:  
 6. Clef: Shows notes Middle C and higher  
 9. \_\_\_\_\_ practice brings fast results

### Answers

Bass, Count, Crescendo, Fermata, Forte, Metronome, Slow, Treble, Video

## FALL BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

- |    |                             |                                |   |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 8  | Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)  | Czech American composer        | <a href="https://youtu.be/3vX90yTyG7w">youtu.be/3vX90yTyG7w</a> |
| 21 | Gustav Holst (1874–1934)    | British composer and conductor | <a href="https://youtu.be/YtphY-4xjQw">youtu.be/YtphY-4xjQw</a> |
| 26 | George Gershwin (1898–1937) | American composer and pianist  | <a href="https://youtu.be/eFHdRkeEnpM">youtu.be/eFHdRkeEnpM</a> |

### OCTOBER

- |    |                                 |                                      |   |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 9  | Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) | French composer                      | <a href="https://youtu.be/dM_I5AcP2yg">youtu.be/dM_I5AcP2yg</a> |
| 22 | Franz Liszt (1811–1886)         | Hungarian composer, pianist, teacher | <a href="https://youtu.be/exOz0Lzx5NA">youtu.be/exOz0Lzx5NA</a> |
| 26 | Domenico Scarlatti (1685–1757)  | Italian composer and harpsichordist  | <a href="https://youtu.be/cU4DcgnetGo">youtu.be/cU4DcgnetGo</a> |



Dvořák



Holst



Gershwin



Saint-Saëns



Liszt



Scarlatti