

SEPTEMBER TOPIC OF THE MONTH – STUDENT RETENTION

Discussion from the General Membership Meeting September 13th

First, we must consider WHY does the student want to quit?

- Too many other activities, too many siblings, no time to practice.
- Doesn't like the lesson time – too late and "I'm tired" too early "I'm tired after a full day of school"
- Not enjoying the repertoire.
- Doesn't like that mom or dad are constantly 'on them'

Some solutions:

- Re no time to practice:
 - Keep coming with the understanding that the lesson will be more of a 'guided practice session'
 - Work on sightreading skills or duet playing
 - Focus on theory lessons and analysis
 - Work on improv skills
 - Ask parent to create a schedule for the kids so they're not fighting over time at the piano.
- Re lesson time:
 - Can you switch with another student
 - (Altho, is this the real reason?)
- Not enjoying repertoire:
 - Ask them to suggest some titles or pop tunes they'd like to learn
 - Play duets
 - Work on improvisation
 - Do they like to compose?
- Re parent involvement:
 - Ask parent to refrain from 'helping' unless asked by the child.
 - Make the child accountable to the teacher. Parent has enough 'baggage' between the two of them; they don't have to add practice to the list.