



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2026



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SANBHI BHATTARAI

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Sanbhi

Hi, my name is Sanbhi Bhattarai! I have a family of four: me, my sister, my mom and dad, plus my grand-parents (on vacation here)! My mom and

dad are from the land of Mount Everest in Nepal. In fact, we went on vacation to Nepal in the month of May and June! My favorite memory was the monkey temple! I got to see the monkeys so close! It was amazing! They interacted with visitors so freely. Me and my dad even fed them bananas. Watching their activities was both fun and memorable.

I go to Sandersville Elementary, going into the fourth grade. My favorite subjects are art and cooking. In my free time I love to paint, cook, go to the library, watch my iPad or TV, and go for a dip in the pool at the YMCA.

My favorite book series is *The Babysitters Club*. It's funny, but sometimes really sad.

The best movie award goes to... *The Emoji Movie*. The best TV show is, well... *The Babysitters Club*!

My favorite activities are riding my bike, playing with friends, and catching up with my cousins. I do swim lessons and really enjoy them.

The World Cup was happening and I was on Argentina's team, oh well! All the way back in February, I got student of the month. And in November 2025 I got spotlight student (school class).

I take piano lessons because I have an interest and I want to create my own music. My goal is to finish all the books by 2027 and to get lots of diamonds and crowns!

Sanbhi's dedication to her music is truly inspiring! Week after week, her steady consistency and stick-to-it attitude shine through. Since joining us last July, she has already advanced to Level 4—leaving her just two levels away from completing the program and graduating to private lessons. We are incredibly proud of how much she's achieved in such a short time!

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WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Summer has been filled with family, sunshine, and lots of celebrating! Here are a few highlights:

Family Getaways: Jon-Michael, Tiffany, and the girls took an awesome trip to Universal Studios, followed by a relaxing week on the beach in Destin, Florida. Meanwhile, Andrea, Jonathan, and the kiddos spent a wonderful week at a lake house in Alabama with Jonathan's family.

Summertime Celebrations: Anthony and I loved celebrating the 4th of July with Andrea's crew. We also celebrated Andrea's birthday with a fun dinner at Ford's Garage (plus cake and ice cream at our house!), and Evie had a blast at her birthday pool party!

Farm Day Fun: I spent a gorgeous summer day with Andrea and the kids at Mulberry Farm in Shelby County. The kiddos had a

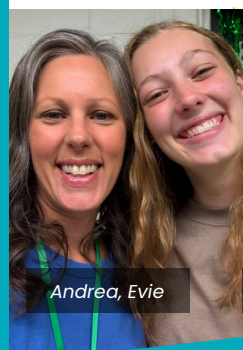
blast zip-lining, going down the giant slide, playing in the corn pit, and feeding the goats!

Meet Elvis! Our newest family member is Elvis, a sweet 3-month-old kitten! He's full of energy, loves to play, and gets along great with our black lab, Bailey. (Though his sharp teeth and claws keep us on our toes, and Zeke, our other cat, is still strictly not a fan!)



Elvis

Jon-Michael,
Landree,
Hadlee,
Tiffany



Andrea, Evie



Megan



Ryan, Jonathan, Natalea



Will



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

EZRA DONOVAN

AUSTIN LENKE

MILENA PUGLEY

MELANIE RAMEY

ELI STEELE

SYDNEY TAYLOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

ELEANOR ARMSTRONG

AUG 12

ASHLEY MENDOZA

AUG 15



IMPORTANT DATES

FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AUG 3

LABOR DAY (NO LESSONS)

SEPT 7

FALL BREAK (NO LESSONS)

SEPT 28-OCT 4

ICE CREAM PARTY OCT 16

FALL PERFORMANCE OCT 24

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THE "WORLD TOUR" PRACTICE CHALLENGE:
AN 8-WEEK MUSICAL ADVENTURE!

To kick off our Fall Semester, our 2nd annual individual practice challenge starts the week of **August 3!**

The Goal: Each student will embark on a personal "World Tour," collecting passport stamps by building consistent practice habits. The more you practice, the farther you travel!

How to Travel the World:

1. **Your Piano Passport:** At their first lesson, every student will receive a **"DMS World Tour Passport"** booklet with 8 destinations. Our 8-week tour will take us to exciting places, featuring the unique countries where our own DMS students are from!
2. **Earning Your Stamps:** To earn a passport stamp for that week's destination, a student simply needs to complete their **"Travel Prep."**
 - **Practice at least 5 days** during the week.
 - **Mark each day you practice** on your Lesson Notes. *(Even if it's only a few minutes, it still counts!)*
 - **Get stamped** at your weekly lesson and watch your passport fill up!

Achievement Levels

- **Level 1: Jet-Setter** (4+ Stamps)
- **Level 2: Globe-Trotter** (6+ Stamps)
- **Level 3: World-Class Virtuoso** (All 8 Stamps!)

The Grand Finale: Studio Ice Cream Party!

Any student who reaches **at least Level 1: Jet-Setter** status will be invited to our **Grand Finale** celebration!

- **Date and Time:** Friday, October 16 at 6:30 PM
- **The Fun:** A delicious ice cream party with all your favorite toppings to honor our amazing World Travelers
- **Cultural Celebration:** We will also honor our studio families as they share a piece of their culture with our community – whether through food, traditional dress, dance, music, or a favorite family tradition!

This challenge is a fantastic, low-pressure way to build the great practice habits that lead to a successful and enjoyable year of music. I can't wait to get started!

THE 30-PIECE CHALLENGE IS BACK!

It's time for one of our favorite studio traditions, now in its seventh year! The 30-Piece Challenge encourages students to learn and polish their music, building confidence and a great repertoire.

The Challenge: Master a piece of music (at least 8 measures for beginners, 16 for others), playing it with musicality, feeling, and a steady beat.

The Rewards:

- **In the studio:** Students earn a prize for every 10 pieces they master!

- **At home:** Parents, consider celebrating these milestones with a special treat or outing to make the achievement even sweeter.
- **At the recital:** All challenge finishers will receive special recognition during our spring recital.

This challenge is designed for all levels, and we can't wait to see how many pieces we can master together this year!

FUNNY CAT MEMES



HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?

PX Students USE OUR STUDENT PORTAL to reschedule your lesson here: danamartinstudio.com/studentportal.

Private Students contact Dana to schedule an online or video feedback lesson.



PRACTICE TIPS

4 Tips for a Happier Practice Routine

Creating a new habit takes time, patience, and a little bit of strategy. If you're looking to help your young pianist build a positive, lasting relationship with their daily practice, try these four simple approaches:

- 2 **Pair Practice with a Favorite Activity.** Link piano time to something your child genuinely loves using a "First [Piano] – Then [Reward]" routine. For example, "As soon as we finish our piano time, we can start our video game time." This helps your child associate the effort of practicing with the positive feeling of the activity that follows.

- 3 **Make It a Game, Not a Battle.** To foster independence and avoid power struggles at the bench, let your child be the leader.

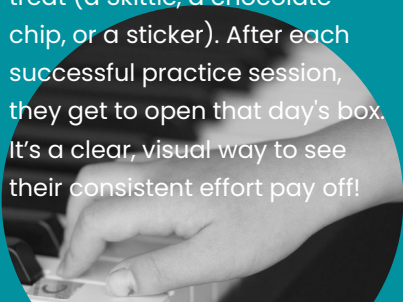
Give them agency: Ask, "Which piece from your assignment do you want to start with today?"

Gamify the task: Try quick challenges like, "I bet you can't find all the C's on this page in 10 seconds!" or "Let's see how fast you can get your hands in the right starting position!"

- 1 **Find the Right Time to Shine.** You know your child best. Is their focus highest first thing in the morning, or right after an afternoon snack? Try to schedule practice during that "peak energy" window rather than squeezing it in when they are already tired.

Bonus Tip: Even a quick five-minute "performance" of a favorite piece after dinner can be a huge win! Celebrate what they remembered from their earlier practice.

- 4 **Celebrate Daily Wins.** Especially when a habit is new, small and immediate rewards work wonders. A fun, visual trick is to use a 7-day pill box. Fill each compartment with a tiny treat (a Skittle, a chocolate chip, or a sticker). After each successful practice session, they get to open that day's box. It's a clear, visual way to see their consistent effort pay off!



OFF THE BENCH: WHAT OUR TEAM'S BEEN UP TO!



Mr. Carmen: "I spent the summer enjoying my work: at the music camp here and as an interpreter at Shaker Village." Mr. Carmen was also mentioned by name in the July issue of *Travel and Leisure*: "Our most memorable experience—one that you must seek out if you visit—came when we attended a session on Shaker music, led by a local educator named Carmen Geraci... Geraci described for us, in movingly vivid language, how the Shakers would enter the space in two lines, men through one door, women through another, and sit facing one another. He sang a few haunting Shaker songs in a strikingly beautiful voice... My sister and I turned to each other and said, at the same time, 'I don't want to leave.'"

Miss Emily: "This summer I got accepted into the teen volunteer program at the UK hospital. I had shifts at the Good Samaritan hospital as well as Chandler's. Volunteering at UK hospitals was an unforgettable experience that deeply shaped my perspective on healthcare and human connection. This experience gave me a firsthand look at what the day in the life of a medical professional would look like. This was truly a meaningful experience I'll carry with me forever."



Mr. Ethan: "This summer was a lot of fun! I did a little bit of everything including church camp, a trip to Gatlinburg and a trip to Chicago. I went to our studio's piano camp, and had an absolute blast in all of those things! I'm so sad for summer to be over, but I can't wait for what the new school year will hold!"

