



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

2355 Huguenard Drive, Ste 101

Lexington, KY 40503

859.488.9148

QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Contact info:

2355 Huguenard Dr, Ste 101
Lexington, KY 40503
lessons.dms@gmail.com
859.488.9148

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KEYS | APRIL 2026

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

It has been a wonderful month of connection and celebration! Here's a little peek into what I've been up to outside the studio:

- **Celebrating Together:** We had a fantastic time celebrating Anthony's birthday recently with Andrea, Jonathan, and the kiddos. It's always so special to get everyone together! While Jon-Michael and his family couldn't be here this year, we were certainly thinking of them.
- **Family Milestones:** A huge shout-out to Andrea and Jonathan, who recently completed their very first 10K! Andrea has been training so diligently over the past few months, and Jonathan stepped in to

run in place of his sister, Melissa. They did fantastic—Andrea finished at 1:14, and Jonathan was right on her heels, only about 20 seconds behind! We are so proud of them both.

- **Birthday Wishes:** A very happy 15th birthday to Hadlee on April 11! We won't be able to celebrate in person this year, but we'll be sending lots of love her way.



Jonathan, Ryan, Will @ Rockets game



Jonathan, Andrea

Jonathan, Natalea, Megan, Evie

Landree with her cousin

Hadlee

APRIL 2026



KEYS

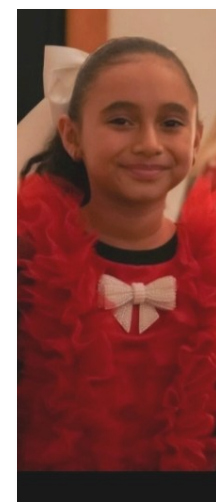
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ASHLEY MENDOZA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ashley

We are so excited to feature Ashley Mendoza in this month's spotlight! Ashley is a bright 4th grader at Glendover Elementary who keeps a very busy schedule. When she isn't at the piano, you can find her on the court or the field playing soccer, volleyball, or tennis.

In the classroom, she especially shines in math and reading. At home, she loves spending time with her mom, dad, brother, sister, and their family dog, or tap into her creative side through singing, doing art, and reading her favorite *Pete the Cat* books.

In the studio, Ashley is known for being incredibly thoughtful and sweet; she truly brightens our day and especially enjoys bringing little gifts to share with her teachers. She initially decided to start piano lessons because she wanted to try something brand new, and she has been

doing a wonderful job! Her current goals are to expand her repertoire with many different songs while mastering her note-reading and keyboard geography.

Outside of her lessons, Ashley has some big travel plans—she is headed to Miami soon to celebrate her cousin's birthday!

We are so fortunate to have Ashley's kind heart and enthusiasm in our studio family.



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

MIREYA CHEA
JAMES GAMBRELL
SAMUEL MORALES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MADGEL MILLER	APR 4
EMILY PAREDES MENDOZA	
	APR 24



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK APRIL 6-12
SPRING RECITAL MAY 18
NO LESSONS MAY 18—JUNE 7

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GET READY FOR THE 2026 PRACTICE COMPETITION!

The excitement kicks off during your regular lesson time the week of April 13! Students will have four weeks to "crush" their practice categories. Whether you're aiming to win a specific prize or looking to qualify for an official certificate and our exclusive pizza party, now is the time to dial in those habits! All of our qualifying students will also receive special recognition at the Spring Recital on May 18.

Be sure to check out the Practice Competition flyer for all the specific details and goal tiers. Every year, I'm inspired by students who carry these outstanding practice habits long after the competition ends. It's amazing to see that momentum build—and this year, that student could be YOU!

NOTE WORTHY



Olivia

A huge congratulations to Olivia Russell for her recent performance in *Frozen the Musical* at LCA! Olivia was a vital part of the elementary ensemble, joining a massive cast of over 100 students from grades 4–12.

Olivia had a wonderful time bringing the world of Arendelle to life, performing as both a townspeople and a magical troll. She especially loved the experience of being part of such a large-scale production and collaborating with students of all ages to create a truly magical show. **We are so proud of your hard work and creativity, Olivia!**

Join me in celebrating Evie Carey for her outstanding achievement at the state-wide Assemblies of God District Fine Arts competition! Evie received the **Award of Merit**, marking her sixth successful year participating in this event.

Watching her dedication to her craft over the years has been a joy, and as both her teacher and her grandmother, I am doubly proud of her hard work and musicality. You'll have the chance to hear her award-winning piece performed live at our recital next month!



Evie

Shining the spotlight on Emily Paredes Mendoza!

This past Wednesday, I had the honor of participating in the White Coat Ceremony for the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Biomedical Sciences Program. This annual tradition recognizes juniors who have completed three years of rigorous study, symbolizing our transition into the professional medical community. Receiving my personalized white coat represents more than just an academic achievement; it marks my formal commitment to a future in healthcare.

I am now preparing to represent our program at a conference at the University of Kentucky, where I will present my research on the various factors associated with breast cancer across different regions of the state. This ceremony was a significant first step toward my goal of pursuing a career in dentistry, and I am eager to continue this journey.



Emily

FUNNY CAT MEMES



HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?

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

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

PRACTICE TIPS

Ready, Set, Perform

As you're working towards the recital, remember to practice more than just the notes. You also need to practice performing. Here are 3 ideas, each with a simple challenge that builds confidence and resilience.

2 The "Landmark" Roll: Mark 3–6 "starting spots" in your music. Roll a die and start playing from that specific spot instead of the beginning. Roll the die again to play from a different spot. This builds the resilience to jump back in anywhere if you lose your place.

3 The "Story" Method: Give your song a simple storyline. As you play, visualize the characters or events in your head. Focusing on the story helps replace "audience jitters" with musical imagination!



INTRODUCING: SUMMER BOOK BLASTS!

We are so excited to announce a brand-new way to keep the music moving this summer! This year, we're introducing Book Blasts—a high-energy alternative to a traditional summer schedule.

What is a Book Blast? It's a chance for students to power through their Piano Express or lesson books in a fun, social environment! Along with focused "at the piano" time, we'll play games that reinforce musical skills and explore famous composers in a modern, engaging way.

Best of all? Students will earn Beethoven Bucks throughout the session to spend on prizes!

Summer Schedule Reminder: Just a friendly reminder that Dana Martin Studio operates on a 12-month schedule (August–July). While the majority of your 38 lessons are

completed by May, the June and July payments finalize the full year's tuition.

We've found that keeping students engaged over the summer—even in a more flexible way—is incredibly beneficial for retaining their skills!

Your Summer Options: All school-aged students are required to register for their summer sessions. You can choose:

Option A: Your 4 regularly scheduled individual lessons.

Option B: Attend 2 Book Blast sessions.

Option C: A combination of both for an extra musical boost!

See the Book Blasts flyer to scan the QR code to register. We can't wait to see what our students achieve this summer!



1 The "One Take" Challenge: Record your piece from start to finish without stopping or restarting. Listen back and find one thing you did well! Remember: performing is about continuity, not corrections.



MARCH MADNESS WINNERS!

In honor of March Madness, students were asked to complete 16/8/4 goals. Congrats to the following students!

Evie Carey: 18 Days, 11 Pages, 9 Memorized

Aubrey Cutwright: 17 Days, 8 Pages, 5 Mem

Honorable Mentions:

Yohana Montes Gonzales: 17 Days, 7 Pages, 7 Memorized

Samuel Morales: 58 Stars + 15 Crowns

Sanbhi Bhattarai: 30 Stars + 12 Crowns

Ava McFarland: 27 Stars + 12 Crowns

