

# Piano Keyboard Skills

Kindergarten – familiarity with the keyboard, black key groups

1<sup>st</sup> Grade – C and D

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – C, D, and E

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – C, D, E, F, and G

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – C, D, E, F, and G / C, B, A, and G

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – C, D, E, F, and G / C, B, A, G, and F

My students are taught to use middle C position. I have students sit so that their belly button is lined up with middle C. Their RH (right hand) should be loosely curved in what I call “a bubble hand” not so tight that the bubble would pop. The wrist should be straight (not looking like “Thing” from The Adams Family.)

The thumb should be placed on middle C and NOT be allowed to sneak off the keys, it is the place holder! This is a very common mistake for students and it will cause their other fingers to be out of place later on.

I have written these pieces to teach students how to read music and to meet the assessment needs set forth by my district that use good piano technique – this is not piano lessons within the school day!

When the students get to grade 4, I use middle C position for the LH (left hand) also. I have also included grand staff music for 5<sup>th</sup> graders that uses shared middle C position.

I have created these compositions because I could not find appropriate keyboard materials that would meet my general music classroom needs. My assessments are written to specifically address my district’s requirements (example, able to read 5 pitches).