

Sample Incentive Program: Memory Club

Memory Club Goals

- Encourage memorization of pieces
- Work on performance skills when playing for memory
- Learn new pieces

How Memory Club Works

- Guided by the teacher, the student chooses a piece to learn (and ultimately memorize) and begins working on it during lessons and practice time.
- As the piece nears a performance-ready state, teacher and student pick a "performance" date (e.g., two lessons from now).
- On performance day, the teacher readies a recorder, then starts it up as the student walks to the piano. The student bows to an imaginary audience, performs the piece from memory, and stands and bows again at the end, simulating a recital.
- Following the performance, teacher and student debrief, discussing such things as rhythm and note accuracy, fluidity (steady tempo, no pausing), musicality (dynamics, articulations, phrasing, pedal), recovery from any memory slips, and so on.
- If the performance goes well, the student is awarded a memory sticker, earning points toward official Memory Club membership.
- If the performance goes poorly, a date is set for another performance opportunity.

Later, the teacher types up a formal adjudication sheet with specific feedback about the student's performance and emails it, along with an audio file of the recording, to the student or parent for at-home review and discussion.

Memory Club Rewards

When students earn five memory stickers, they become Bronze members of the Memory Club and get to pick something from the studio's prize box. Ten stickers earn them Silver member status, 15 for Gold, and 20 for Platinum. Students receive a prize and certificate at each level.