



Erie High School
Mrs. Rebecca Laquidara, Music Teacher
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Piano

Course Description:

This class is designed to develop basic piano skills. Instruction will take place both on and off the keyboards. Students will work individually, in small groups, and as a whole class as they learn to read musical notation, improve playing technique, and practice songs.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn to read basic musical notation.
2. Students will learn to practice effectively.
3. Students will learn to play as an ensemble.
4. Students will improve their individual piano skills.
5. Students will gain confidence through performance.

Course Materials:

- Keyboard
- Chromebook
- Piano book
- Pencil
- Folder

Class Expectations:

- **BE ON TIME:** Students are expected to be in their seats, prepared for class, when the class begins.
- **BE RESPECTFUL:** Students will treat their teacher and their peers with kindness and respect. If you can't be anything else, at least be kind.
- **BE INVOLVED IN ALL ACTIVITIES:** A larger portion of your grade is participation - you cannot pass unless you participate. Music is a hands-on experience and active involvement in your learning is expected. Please be mindful of this.
- **TREAT EQUIPMENT PROPERLY:** Instruments are extremely expensive and need to be treated as such. Please follow all instructions for instrument care.
- **USE CLASS TIME WISELY:** As I am not available to help you with piano at all hours of the day, it is expected that you will use the time I give you in class to practice.

Topics to be covered:

- Hand position.
- Musical notation for bass and treble clefs.
- Basic rhythms using sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes and rests.
- Basic time signatures.
- Simple melodies and harmonies.
- Scales.
- Introduction to Composition – Piano 2.

Grading:

ALL MUSIC GRADES ARE BASED ON EFFORT AND IMPROVEMENT, NOT MUSICAL ABILITY!

Grading in music class is on a point system. The more important something is to their learning the more points it will be awarded. The following categories will be assessed:

Participation: Students will participate in ALL classroom activities. Chromebooks are required for this class and phones will be put away. Talking will not be permitted during instruction. Class time is to be used to work on music activities. Students will remain engaged and on task. This includes (but is not limited to) participation in group songs, practicing during independent practice time, and completing any assigned classwork.

Do Now: Students are expected to complete a “Do Now” at the beginning of every class. Failure to participate in the “Do Now” for the day will result in a loss of points.

Quizzes: As new material is covered, students will take quizzes on what they have learned. It is my policy to review everything that will be on the quiz during the class before the quiz date. If a student misses this review, it is THEIR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what they missed. If a student misses a quiz, it is also THEIR RESPONSIBILITY to make it up.

Playing assessments: This class is based around learning to play an instrument. It is expected that each student will make an effort as new material is introduced. Playing assessments happened periodically throughout the quarter. There IS a final playing assessment at the end of the quarter. A playing grade will be given based on effort and improvement (not ability.) You cannot learn if you do not try.

Technology in the Music Class

Technology is used in this classroom *solely* for **educational purposes**.

Examples include:

- YouTube tutorials
- Looking up the definition of a word
- Listening to music when directed by the teacher
- Research for a project

The use of headphones, cell phones, tablets or other technology for purposes of social media, watching movies, phone calls, or texting while in this classroom is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. If you are found to be watching movies, making phone calls, or sending texts during class OR on Facebook, Facetime, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, OR ANY OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM, **you will be written up!**

Please sign below and submit by September 11, 2023.

I have read the above syllabus for Music Appreciation and understand what is expected of me/my child.

PLEASE PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

PLEASE PRINT PARENT'S NAME

PARENT'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

PARENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS

PARENT'S PHONE NUMBER