

ADVANCED PIANO – Fall 2008

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Piano students will apply previously learned piano and music reading skills to interpret more complex musical scores in a correct and historically accurate style. All students will participate fully in daily class practice, theory and history discussions, listening reflections, and assigned computer sessions. They will prepare for 5 individual playing exams each quarter, demonstrate knowledge of class-discussed theory, and participate in the end-of-semester recital. All students will keep a daily music journal and practice record in their portfolio which I will provide. In addition, group and individual projects will be assigned.

GRADING: In Advanced Piano class reteaching/reassessing occurs on a daily basis. In accordance with the MCPS grading policy students may replay assigned music after consultation/reteaching with the teacher. However assigned journals may NOT be redone because the journal is a daily self-reflection of growth. Final projects and recitals also may not be reassessed. Quarter grades will be determined by the following:

50% is playing grade (accurate playing and interpretation and demonstration of theory/techniques learned with the music)

40% is classwork (quizzes, focused practicing, listenings, on-time and completed journals)

10% homework grade

CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

- **No food, drink or gum in classroom.**
- **Ids and planbooks** are required.
- 3 bathroom passes per **semester** allowed.
- Headsets must be used at all times. It is the student's responsibility to handle them carefully. **THEY MAY NOT BE MOVED FROM STATION TO STATION.**
- There is no initial charge for use of keyboards, headphones, books, and computers. However, for loss or damage students will be held responsible at the rates posted in the room.
- **Computers are to be used only as assigned by the teacher. Students may not use them to access e-mail or to do work for other classes.**
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ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in class and on time. Make-up playing dates and classwork will be allowed for excused absences. LC policy is strictly followed; I am vigilant about attendance and tardies!! **NOTE:** Because this is a "hands-on" class students **MUST BE IN CLASS** in order to complete their music playing assignments and listening for the best possible grade. Excessive absences will need doctor's documentation.

I have read and understand the piano lab policies and expectations as stated.

Student Signature _____ name printed _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian name
printed _____

(signature) _____

PIANO CLASS LEARNER OUTCOMES

1. Performing assigned literature with expression and technical accuracy.
 - Student plays rhythms correctly.
 - Student plays notes/pitches correctly.
 - Student uses indicated fingering positions.
 - Student performs piece with expression appropriate to the style of the selected repertoire.
2. Practicing that incorporates sequential and consistent problem-solving.
 - Student demonstrates ability to self-pace instruction.
 - Student asks questions when a concept needs clarification.
 - Student demonstrates understanding of daily practicing behaviors including but not limited to: isolation of mistake, repetition, hands alone, slower tempo
 - Student uses equipment and instruments in appropriate manner as described in course outline.
3. Evaluating music performances.
 - Student listens to assigned music and evaluates it using writing prompts given on worksheet.
 - Student does additional listening as time permits in order to experience music that is different from what the student is accustomed to hearing on a regular basis.
4. Demonstrating an understanding music in relation to history and culture.
 - Student completes music journal writings as assigned.
 - Student completes assigned readings, creative projects, and listening labs of various world cultures and historical times.
5. Composing, improvising and arranging music within specific guidelines.
 - Student explores the creative side of music performance at increasingly advanced levels as assigned.

PIANO PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT RUBRIC:

For each assigned piece of music students will be assessed for correct notes, rhythms, and fingerings, demonstrated understanding of music theory and/or piano techniques necessary to play the piece and performance of the music with expression appropriate to the style of the music. Each category is worth 5 points maximum for a total of 20 points for each piece of music played:

- 5 – outstanding; no mistakes, complete understanding of technique/music
- 4 – above average; 1-3 mistakes, good understanding of technique/music
- 3 – average; 4-6 mistakes, some understanding of technique/music
- 2 – below average; more than 6 mistakes, little understanding of music
- 1 – minimal attempt; demonstrate very little understanding of music
- 0- no attempt

Students are required to prepare two full pages of music along with the technique pages for each grading.