

General Music: Class Piano

•Instructor: Mr. Sexton

•Email: csexton3@schools.nyc.gov

Course Description: This course is an introduction to playing the piano, instruments, music composition, analysis, discussion, and music critique. Daily activities include but are not limited to learning music theory and standard music theory, music composition, playing instruments and may perform as part of the music department and mastering new music selections from both texts used in class and graded full class recitals(biweekly). **This class is not recess. Come ready to work. Everyday.**

Standards, Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes: By the end of the course, students will:

- demonstrate the ability to understand the basic elements of music and music notation (standard notation in treble and bass clefs, notes, note values, dynamic expressions)
- exhibit basic to intermediate proficiency in piano playing (assessed through regular class piano performances and daily class participation)
- demonstrate the ability to organize musical sounds and ideas (demonstrated by writing their own musical compositions and performing them later in the semester)
- demonstrate the ability to critically examine and critique musical performances using standard music terminology.
- develop an appreciation and understanding of multiple music genres

Required Texts: Alfred Adult beginner Piano classroom copies supplied by teacher Required

Materials and supplies (daily):

- Sharpened or Mechanical Pencils (a pen is not a pencil) with eraser
- Manuscript paper (supplied by instructor in class)
- Tabbed section in binder with all required materials (dictated by the teacher)

Expected Behavior of Students: You are working around electronic equipment that **MUST** be replaced if damaged. **Absolutely no gum, candy, sodas, cough drops, drinks or food of any sort is permitted in the class at ANY time regardless of reason. (Students will receive a ZERO for the day and be removed from using all equipment if caught chewing, eating, or drinking in class.** “I’m chewing my tongue” is not an acceptable excuse. “But it’s only water” is not an excuse. This IS your warning. Empty your mouth in the cafeteria. There are NO exceptions to this rule. It will NOT change.

Appropriate language is expected of all students at all times. Profanity and other abusive language including disrespect to the teacher or other students will result in grade reduction, phone calls to parents, administrative referrals and other punitive actions as needed.

Grading Policy (Scale, Rubric, Requirements)

Grading Scale:

90-100 A	80-89=B		69-65= D	64-0=F
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Grade Categories:

70% Classwork – Individual and group daily participation in class, daily work habits, care of supplies and equipment, preparation for class, punctuality, discussions
10% Homework – Warm-ups, vocabulary, self-critiques, reports, and projects
20% Assessment – Tests, Quizzes, Exams (written, playing), attendance at scheduled performances.

You Will Lose Points For:

Category	
Wrong Daily Work Habits (incomplete supplies, missing materials, tardiness to class, walk outs)	40 per incident
Off task behaviors: Horseplay, tardiness, disrespect, talking, note passing, whispering and ANYTHING other than doing your work as directed, unauthorized use of electronic devices	40 per incident
gum, food, candy & drinks of any kind	40 per incident

Assessment: All students are expected to make adequate weekly progress playing instruments. Adequate weekly progress for this class is defined as a minimum of FOUR (4) pages of material mastered according to the rubric for instrumental music assessment. Each page contains one song. Progress will be tracked for each student. Written tests on music theory and based classroom discussions will also be given.

Supplies: Two pencils (**NO PENS – A PEN IS NOT A PENCIL**).

Music Theory Packet (first copy supplied by teacher

Tabbed section in your notebook (for handouts and notes)

Make Up Work Policy. Mr. S is not required to give make up work if:

- You did not do your work in class and you're looking to boost your grade.
- You did not have an assignment ready on the day of class because you did not use your time to prepare it properly

YOU DO NOT SHOW UP TO CLASS

Therefore, do your work the first time it is given to you and endeavor to put forth your best effort on every assignment. (Whatever grade you get is the grade YOU earned.

Tardiness and Absences. You are in High school. You have no reason to be late for class. If you are tardy, you must have an excuse note from a teacher, administrator, or staff member. If you are unexcused, you will automatically start the day with a 70. Three unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absence (a ZERO). (If you are absent and excused, you must bring around a form before make-up work will be assigned.

Need Help? No student who puts forth their best effort will fail this class. The only person who can cause you to fail is YOU. If you ask for help, you will get it. Never give up.