

Dunbar Magnet School Band Program

Piano Band Syllabus

Teacher: Mr. Ben Mayfield email: bmayfield@mcpss.com

Periods 3rd

Philosophy on Music

Music provides an aesthetic experience unlike any other. No other subject works both the creative and the analytical sides of the brain so strenuously as music. This strenuous “exercise of the brain”, compliments a student’s endeavors in all other classes as well. Participation in a music group provides many non-musical benefits, such as developing a sense of responsibility, learning to work together as a team, and feeling a sense of accomplishment in doing something well. However, the primary purpose of a musical performing group is to build instrumental technique and musicianship, and to make music together. Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student’s development. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, emotionally, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and cultures.

Course Objectives:

Piano I am designed to introduce students to the piano and to basic music theory. Piano 2 students will have a basic theory review and a higher-level book that will advance their skills. In this class, the student will learn proper piano technique, the history of the piano, gain a basic knowledge of music theory, and will play an instrument that provides learning and performance opportunities.

Students work at their own pace with teacher guided instruction. Each day there will be a group warm-up exercise followed by class instruction. After the class instruction, students will then work on the daily/weekly assigned exercises. Students will only move to their next exercise if they feel they are ready and have passed off their current exercise(s) with 85% accuracy.

NO TALKING WHEN TEACHER IS TALKING

NO PROFANITY!!!

NO FOOD, GUM, OR CANDY UNLESS PERMISSION IS GIVEN (plain bottled water is allowed)

DISRESPECTING TEACHER OR CLASSMATES

NO CELLPHONES UNLESS PERMISSION IS GIVEN FOR AN ASSIGNMENT

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Classroom Procedures:

The following guidelines for music students have been formulated for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a performing group in which each member, the entire school and the community may take pride.

1. BATHROOM PROCEDURE: Bathroom passes will be limited to 3 times per student for per quarter.
2. MISSED CLASS WORK- Ask neighboring student for missed bell ringers and ask teacher for missed work.
3. RAISE YOUR HAND- If you have a question or comment or if you need permission to leave your seat for anything.
4. KEEP ROOM CLEAN- Pick up any trash around your seat and straighten up your chair before exiting the class.
5. UNIFORM POLICY- Follow it!

Online Learning:

Piano students will be expected to log into the piano class during their assigned class period each day to receive the daily live lesson. Students should take notes when necessary. Students will be given assignments to complete that will assess their knowledge of the material that has been presented. Mr. Mayfield will be available to answer any questions during the class period as well as throughout the day via email. If the student has a question after normal school hours Mr. Mayfield will answer the question on the following school day.

Class Fees:

If you do not have a keyboard or piano to use at home, we have a limited number of keyboards to rent from Dunbar. The cost is \$40.00, and this is a first come first serve basis. If you rent a keyboard you must take care of it and return it at the end of the school year.

When we return to school there is also a \$25.00 Book fee that will be due.

You may need to purchase an adaptor for your headphones to work with the keyboard. The adaptor can be purchased at Guitar Center or Andy's Music.

Grading Policy:

Student grading will be divided in the following categories with each having a different percentage of the overall student grade.

60% TESTS Written and Weekly Piano Assessments

40%- PARTICIPATION Participation=20 pts a day Bellringers/Classwork=20 pts a day

Grading Scale

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F= 0-59

Grades will be updated weekly. Students will be notified of when major assessments will be given.

-  The more a student practices the easier the piano will become and the more successful they will be at playing the piano.

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Discipline Policy:

In order to be productive and have a successful year, students must be willing to work hard and behave properly at all times. Our discipline policy is a five-strike system: However, Demerits may be issued for accumulated tardies or behavior deemed inappropriate without following the 5-strike system.

- 🎵 Strike 1 – Verbal warning
- 🎵 Strike 2 – Write lines/discipline essay with parent signature.
- 🎵 Strike 3 - Demerit issued
- 🎵 Strike 4 - Contact Parents/ Parent Teacher conference
- 🎵 Strike 5 – You’re Out – Office Referral
- 🎵 Discipline essays and lines are to be handwritten by the student, signed by the parent/guardian and returned the very next day. Failure to return the work will result in a parent phone call.
- 🎵 Students who come to class unprepared will be expected to still follow all classroom rules. However, points will be deducted from their grade.

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Student and Parent Acknowledgement

Having read the syllabus for Piano Class I understand all the requirements for this class. I will comply with all class rules and procedures and will do my part to make the Dunbar Piano Class the best in Mobile County. I understand my responsibilities as a band student and/or band parent. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact Mr. Mayfield to address them. I will be a responsible and well-prepared student.

If I rent a school keyboard, I understand I am responsible for any damage that occurs while in my possession. I will let Mr. Mayfield know if anything happens in order to have the keyboard repaired in a timely manner.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____