

Piano 1A Syllabus

Fall 2016 Semester



Instructor Information

Instructor

Mr. Stephens

Contact Information

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Office Location & Hours

Room 1

Office hours during lunch (most days)

After school (by appointment)

Course Description

For this course, students will have the chance to explore music, piano technique, and general music theory through learning to read and interpret piano music. Throughout the semester, we will cover a wide variety of genres of music in order to broaden your understanding and appreciation of music. Although reading and performing music will be the primary method of assessment, students will also have the opportunity to listen to and compose their own music, as well as participate in a variety of group and solo projects.

This course is designed to accommodate students with a wide range of experience levels, including those with no experience at all. Students will undergo an initial pre-assessment in order to determine their prior knowledge, and will continue at a pace appropriate to their abilities.

Course Goals

Upon completing the first semester of Piano 1 (A), students will have mastery of the following core skills:

- Demonstrate correct piano technique (posture, hand position, and fingerings)
- Read written music (both bass and treble clef) of an appropriate difficulty level
- Interpret music through understanding various expressive markings
- Analyze music for basic chord structure, melodic content, and how the two work together

Required Materials

During the semester, we will use the following texts:

- *Alfred's All-in-One Piano Course for Adults*, by Palmer, Lethco, and Manus
- Various arrangements and other books will be used throughout the course

Please also be sure to bring the following with you to class each day:

- A pencil
- Headphones (*please inform the instructor if you need to borrow a pair for the semester*)
- Any music or books that you are assigned

Students do not need to purchase these texts; all materials will be provided by the instrumental music department.

Please turn over for more information

Classroom Expectations

Please read through the course expectations in order to ensure that we have a productive classroom environment. Also, there is NO course fee for this class, so students must adhere to each of these guidelines in order to ensure that the expensive equipment lasts for years to come. *Students will be expected to pay for any damage that is incurred as a result of mistreatment or carelessness.*

- Please be in your seat once the late bell rings. Seats will be assigned during the first week of classes.
- Please leave ALL electronic devices out of sight for the entirety of class and on “silent” or OFF.
- Make good use of time when practicing. **Off-task talking=less practicing=poor grades on playing tests!!**
- No open food or beverages are permitted in the band room. The only exception is water in clear plastic bottles, and they MUST stay on the floor.
- **Never place anything other than music on the piano.**
- Always play with clean, dry hands. There is hand sanitizer and paper towels available if needed.
- Never HIT or SWIPE the keys. This causes damage to the sensitive electronics and can render a piano unusable!
- Be careful to make sure that pencils and other small objects don't slip between the keys. Again, this can render a piano unplayable!
- Please use headphones when practicing unless otherwise instructed. Students should use their own headphones, although they may borrow school ones. **These are limited in quantity and issued first-come, first-serve.**
- If you suspect that your piano may be damaged, please inform Mr. Stephens immediately!

Other Important Considerations

- Since most people do not own a piano at home, nearly all of the practicing will be done at school. Please come to class ready to work hard and make good use of your time each and every day!
- The pianos are available for practice during lunch. Students should take advantage of this if they do not have a piano at home on which to practice!
- If you are interested in purchasing an electronic keyboard or piano, please feel free to contact me for advice in finding quality instruments for a good deal.

Remember:

Piano is a challenging instrument to master.

No one (to my knowledge) has become a world-class piano player in one semester. It takes MONTHS to become a competent piano player, and YEARS to become an advanced one.

DEDICATION, PERSEVERANCE, and PATIENCE are all key to becoming the piano player that you one day hope to be!

PARENT NAME (print): _____ PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT NAME (print): _____ STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please visit <http://www.senecamusic.org/pianoinstrument-lab> to visit our class page

Course Outline

Students will follow the following playing test schedule for Semester 1 (from course textbook):

Page Number	Song Title	Primary Concept	Formative/Summative
12/13	RH Warm up/Ode to Joy	Quarter notes, reading RH notes	Formative
16/17	LH Warm up/Aura Lee	Reading LH notes	Formative
20	Playing on the Grand Staff	Reading grand staff/half notes	Formative
21	Rock Along	Assess prior concepts	Summative
21	Mexican Hat Dance	Quarter rests	Formative
26	Rockin' Intervals	Multiple notes in one hand	Formative
33	Brother John/Here's a Happy Song	LH/RH chords	Formative
35	Largo	Ties	Formative
37	Mary Ann	Assess prior concepts (RH chords)	Summative
42	What Can I Share	Assess prior concepts (LH chords)	Summative
45/47	When the Saints Go Marching In (both versions)	Assess prior concepts (F chord)	Summative
			Total MP1 playing tests: 11
51	A Friend Like You	G Position	Formative
54	Money Can't Buy Ev'rything	Sharp sign	Formative
59	The Cuckoo	G/D7 chords	Formative
61	Harp Song	Damper pedal	Formative
65	Beautiful Brown Eyes	Assess prior concepts (LH chords)	Summative
69	Alpine Melody	Assess prior concepts (RH chords)	Summative
77	Standing in the Need of Prayer	8 th Notes	Formative
78	Hanon exercise No. 1* <i>ongoing- complete by end of mp2</i>	Technique development	Summative
79	Alouette	Dotted Quarter notes	Formative
89	Blow the Man Down!	Assess prior concepts	Summative
			Total MP2 playing tests: 10

A few notes about the playing test schedule:

- This is not an exhaustive list of all assessments that will be used throughout the year. Supplementary tasks will be given in class and for homework to further enrich the curriculum. These playing tests, however, are the main focus for the 1st semester.
- Students are allowed to work at their own pace in completing the playing tests, however all assignments for each marking period must be completed by the end of the marking period. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that students work ahead whenever possible, as the curriculum becomes more challenging as the year progresses, and students will need additional practice time for the more advanced repertoire.
- Students may complete MP2 assignments during MP1 if they wish to do so, and those grades will be recorded and entered for MP2.
- Students that demonstrate advanced ability in reading and performing music will begin on music that is appropriate to their abilities and follow a modified playing test schedule to continue their progress in order to maximize their abilities. Students will be screened for prior ability at the beginning of the course by the instructor. However, most students will follow the schedule listed above.