

**School Year:**

2019 -2020

**Name of Course:**

Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Piano

**Name of Teacher:**

Mr. Morales

**Teacher Contact Information:**

Phone#-830-3128 ext. 0

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**Welcome to PAPA Piano!! It is going to be a great year!!  
Please read over syllabus carefully; sign and return to Mr.  
Morales**

**Course Description:**

This class will cover both the fundamentals of playing piano along with general music theory and music history. The piano courses are broken up into two levels; the first being beginning piano and the second being intermediate and advanced piano. For more information on these classes please look below.

**Beginning Piano:** This class is designed to help students who have had little or no experience on the piano. This class will cover the basic fundamentals of piano playing. The students will have a thorough understanding of reading notation on both the treble and bass clefs. They will learn how to play and form basic chords and scales. They will also be expected to learn how to play in both a group (duet, trio, ensemble) setting and on an individual basis. Lastly, this course will integrate basic theory concepts and musical history ending with them creating their own composition by the end of the year.

**Intermediate and Advanced Piano:** This class is designed with players who have had two or more years experience playing piano. Since there are a large range of abilities in this class, there will be more focus on individual development and skills. The students will work on many solo pieces but are also expected to perform in group settings. These students will learn how to read both standard notation and chord charts. They will explore more complex chord and scale structures and develop an awareness of advanced theory concepts. They will develop an awareness and ability to perform multiple styles of music including classical, contemporary, and jazz. Their will also be a focus on learning how to utilize improvisational skills in different forms of music. On top of all

this they will learn music history and study the development of musical styles and genres resulting in creating their own compositions by the end of the year.

## **Concepts and Corresponding NMPED Standards:**

**Standard 1:** Learn and develop the essential skills and meet technical demands unique to dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts.

**Standard 2:** Use dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts to express ideas

**Standard 3:** Integrate understanding of visual and performing arts by seeking connections and parallels among arts disciplines as well as other content areas.

**Standard 4:** Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of the creative process.

**Standard 5:** Observe, discuss, analyze and make critical judgments about artistic works.

**Standard 6:** Show increased awareness of diverse peoples and cultures through visual and performing arts.

**Standard 7:** Demonstrate knowledge about how technology and invention have historically influenced artists and offered new possibilities for expression.

**Standard 8:** Contribute to communities by sharing expertise in dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts and by participating in the activities of cultural institutions.

## **Assignments/Homework:**

This class consists of daily homework which is practice time. In order to maintain high standards of learning, it is expected that all students practice at home. Students should practice enough to help strengthen their skills on the piano, but not so long that it becomes a burden. A reasonable practice routine for beginners would be 15-20 minutes long. For advanced students, this time could be as much as an hour. Of course this depends on the individual student and appropriate practice times can be discussed with me. Practice is a regular routine that should be done along with all other coursework and studies. Each student will be expected to turn in a practice log every week to document that they have been practicing. We will be doing these logs through google classroom this year. This will be equivalent to homework assignments that are given out in any other class. We will also have frequent playing and written tests which students will be given plenty of notice to prepare for. All students will also need to complete through a proficiency packet by the end of each semester. Thirdly, all students are expected to create their own composition during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of class. This will be done with my assistance and will account for a large project grade. Lastly, there will be two large concert grades which will count as their final exams for each semester.

## **Grading Procedures:**

The students will be graded in three different areas.

1. **Participation:** This includes: attendance, preparation, and behavior. This is the most essential part of the class and is necessary for all students to do well. All students will receive a weekly participation grade based on a 15 point system that will account for 70% of their 9 week grades
2. **Assignments/ Tests:** This includes all assignments, quizzes and tests that are given throughout the grading period. Students will do weekly practice logs which account for homework and there will be at least 4 quizzes, tests in each grading period and many small assignments. This will account for about 30% of the students' 9 week grade
3. **Final/ Concert:** There will be two major concerts in the course of the school year, one in winter and one in the spring. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend both of these performances. These will count as the students' midterm and final grade which accounts for 20% of their overall grades.

## **Teaching Philosophy and Expectations:**

All students will grow in their knowledge of the piano and music in general, and will receive an appreciation for music and its history and impact on culture and society. It is expected that all students come to class prepared and ready to learn. All students will be assessed on their effort and not on their ability. I do not grade based on individual playing levels, but I do grade on a students' willingness to learn. If students are prepared, hardworking, and respectful, then all students will succeed in this class.

## **Classroom Rules and Consequences:**

1. **Be prompt and prepared**
2. **Respect the teacher**
3. **Respect each other**
4. **No distractions during instruction time**

All class rules fall under these four rules.

In the event that a student is breaking the classroom rules, they will be given two verbal warnings. After the two verbal warnings, students will document their misbehavior. In the case that this happens, we will involve parents or administration

depending on the severity of the situation and according to the disciplinary guidelines of the school.

## **Opportunities to Volunteer:**

We as a piano group can always use volunteers. Some events where we will need some parental help are the concerts. We will be holding our concerts at Valley High School and we need volunteers who are willing to assist in moving items to and from the school. Another event is going to be our annual fundraiser (more info to come) and we will need tons of help and volunteers to make this event happen. Thirdly, we will be having various performance opportunities throughout the year that always need extra volunteers at. Lastly, parents are always welcome in the classroom and if you have talents and knowledge you would like to share, you are always welcome or if you would like to just stop by and see how we are doing. My classroom door is always open to parents and guardians.

## **A Little About Me:**

Mr. Morales started playing music at 6 years old. Throughout elementary school he played in mariachi groups, band, piano, and bell choirs. By high school, Mr. Morales had already become an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and even begun teaching workshop at various mariachi conferences when he was 16. He also performed, wrote and recorded two albums when he was still in high school. Mr. Morales went on to study music performance at New Mexico Highlands University. He majored in guitar performance with an emphasis in music history and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2007. He then went on to receive his Master's degree in Music Performance in 2009 and received a second Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2011. While at Highlands University, he was drum major for the NMHU marching band, choral manager for the HU Singers Club, a regular in the schools drama club, as well as performing and gigging with numerous popular local bands. He began teaching in Las Vegas New Mexico where he spent two years working in marching band, guitar, choir and elementary music. He then moved to Albuquerque where he taught band for three years at Taft Middle School. This will be his 10th year teaching at PAPA, where he currently runs the guitar and piano programs. He also currently performs and writes with local Christian rock groups. Mr. Morales is married and has three daughters that are all learning music as well.

Please fill out this form and return back to Mr. Morales ASAP. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_