

Public Academy for the Performing Arts Beginning Piano

Faculty Name: Mark Opperman

Class Location: Room #20 "Studio 20"

Email: mopperman@paparts.org

Please note: Students must use their PAPA email address when contacting instructor by email.

This syllabus describes general course content, requirements and materials. However, all aspects of this description are subject to my revision in order to best tailor the course to the needs of students, calendar, and circumstance

Course Description

This course will focus on development of basic musicianship skills such as:

Reading musical notation

Playing solo piano pieces

Understanding of chords and scales

Tempo

Rhythm

Performance

Repertoire\Worksheets 30% Quizzes 20% Participation 20% Final Performance 30%

100% - 96% A+ 95% - 93% A 92% - 90% A

89% - 86% B+ 85% - 83% B 82% - 80% B

79% - 76% C+ 75% - 73% C 72% - 70% C

69% - 66% D+ 65% - 63% D 62% - 60% D

59% and below is an F

School Concerts

Participation in school concerts is mandatory and counts for 30% of your final semester grade.

Concert dress will be a black button down shirt or blouse and black pants. Only ankle length

black skirts are acceptable. Students are free to wear silly socks in place of black dress socks.

Medical or catastrophic emergencies are acceptable excuses for missing a concert without a grade penalty. Documentation may be required.

Not having a ride or not being able to miss work will not be excusable reasons for missing a school concert and result in a grade penalty up to failing the semester.

Google Classroom

We will utilize google classroom for the posting of daily class agendas, assignments, announcements, and other important information.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join the google classroom. Students will be given the code

to their specific section in class. These codes are not to be shared with any person outside of PAPA. Codes are class specific and should not be shared with peers outside of the specific class section.

Grading Criteria

Students will be graded on an individual basis by the instructor and will be asked to demonstrate their progress towards achieving the course learning objectives. This demonstration will take place during class as a quiz. Each student will perform/demonstrate a portion of the assigned material from the preceding weeks. This include assigned pieces/parts, scales, chords, techniques, and theory. Students will be graded on their ability to perform all of the material included in the quiz along with accuracy of notes, rhythms, left/right hand posture, and finger placement. Tempo will not be considered as part of your quiz grade. You are free to play at a tempo that you are comfortable with. However, a steady tempo must be maintained and concert tempo should be achieved prior to performance. After the student performs the instructor will provide constructive feedback and suggest ways to improve as needed.

Classroom Etiquette

Above all students are expected to be respectful and willing to learn.

Students should enter the classroom in a calm and respectful manner, and treat everything and everyone with respect. .

Students are expected to be self motivated learners who genuinely seek to learn how to play the piano. They must ask for help when they need it. They must take responsibility for their own progress in the class.

I highly encourage any serious student of the piano to take private lessons. Evidence shows us that students who take lessons in combination with classroom studies make more progress on their instrument in a shorter amount of time.

Bathroom breaks should be taken during passing periods. However, if a student needs a bathroom break during learning time they need to ask permission from the instructor and use the corresponding form to sign out and back in. Outside of a bathroom emergency, students should choose to take bathroom breaks at a moment when they are least likely to miss important information from the instructor.

Any student who either intentionally or through irresponsible treatment damages a school instrument will be held financially responsible for the replacement of the school instrument.

Cell phones

Cell phone use is not permitted during class time.

Students who do not wish to follow these guidelines of conduct and etiquette will be placed on a behavior contract and may be excluded from participation in piano related events outside of the classroom. Please refer to the PAPA Student Handbook for further information on academic/conduct expectations for students, and the administrative discipline process.

Playing Quiz

Students will perform a section from their assigned pieces for the class on Mondays. After the performance, students will be given constructive feedback. Students will be expected to apply this feedback to their playing and show improvement through consistent and careful practice.

Basic Music Theory assignments will be completed each week by students. These assignments are the work that should be completed by students during class time while waiting their turn to practice.

Concerts

Performing in the semester concert is mandatory. The concert date will be announced in class and posted on google classroom.

Important Dates:

Fall Semester Concert

12/2

Spring Semester Concert

TBA

This course adheres to the following National Music Standards

NATIONAL STANDARDS for MUSIC EDUCATION

1. Playing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.

8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.