

Pequannock Township School District

Curriculum Syllabus

Course Name and level / Grade level and Subject: Piano, 9-12

Course Description:

This class allows students to learn about the fascinating art of music, first hand, through playing the piano. Students will learn basic standard musical notation, finger techniques, theoretical music concepts such as chords, scales and composition, as well as study repertoire of all styles and levels. Many genres will be explored in this class- everything from pop to classical with a basis in technical proficiency. Students will learn an invaluable skill that can be utilized beyond their high school experience. This course is open to students of all experience levels.

Course Proficiencies:

The following is a list of proficiencies that describe what students are expected to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing this course. The following proficiencies are the basis of the assessment of student achievement. The learner will demonstrate mastery of:

1. Examine how aspects of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and harmonic progressions are organized and manipulated to establish unity and variety in genres of musical composition. 1.1.12.B.1
2. Synthesize knowledge of the elements of music in the deconstruction and performance of complex musical scores from diverse cultural contexts. 1.1.12.B.2
3. Analyze compositions from different world cultures and genres with respect to technique, musicality, and stylistic nuance, and/or perform excerpts with technical accuracy, appropriate musicality, and the relevant stylistic nuance. 1.3.12.B.1
4. Analyze how the elements of music are manipulated in original or prepared scores. 1.3.12.B.2
5. Improvise works through the conscious manipulation of the elements of music, using a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources, including electronic sound-generating equipment and music generation programs. 1.3.12.B.3

6. Arrange simple pieces for voice or instrument using a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources or electronic media, and/or analyze prepared scores using music composition software. 1.3.12.B.4
7. Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning. 1.4.12.B.2

Scope and Sequence

Unit 1

How to Sit at the Keyboard, Basic Note and Rest Values, The Keyboard, Naming White Keys, Octave, Finding White Keys, Dynamic Signs, Sharp, Flat and Natural Signs, Half Step, Whole Step, The Chromatic Scale, The Staff, The Treble Clef Sign, The Bass Clef Sign, The Grand Staff, Time Signatures, Tempo Marks, Articulation, Intervals, Eighth Notes, Eighth Rests, Dotted Quarter Notes, Key Signatures

Unit 2

Major 5 Finger Patterns, Major Triads (Chords), Pattern Groups, Sixteenth Notes, Minor 5 Finger Patterns, Major and Minor 5 Finger Patterns, Minor Chords, Relative Minor Keys

Unit 3

Augmented Chords, Diminished Chords, The Dotted Eighth Note

Unit 4

The Tonic and Dominant Chords, the V7 Chord, Block Chords and Broken Chords, Subdominant Chord, Alberti Bass and Waltz Bass Accompaniment.

Unit 5

Minor Scales, Playing Triads in Harmonic Minor, Playing Harmonic Minor Arpeggios.

Assessments

Evaluation of student achievement in this course will be based on the following:

- a. Observational data collected by teachers as students are learning
- b. Formative assessments given by teachers to gauge progress toward each standard

Curriculum Resources

Instructional Resources:

Alfred's Adult Piano Course Volume 1

Scales, Chords, and Arpeggios by James Bastien

Home and School Connection

The following are suggestions and/or resources that will help parents support their children:

1. Attend local concerts and/or play performances
2. Attend high school performances
3. Websites - musictheory.net and musictechteacher.com