KUTZTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maximize potential, embrace change, create the future

Piano I/II, Grades 9-12

Last Updated July, 2021 by Cecily Ryan

Course Description: This is a hands-on course where students will learn to read music and play simple to advanced selections using both hands at the piano. This course is designed for students who have no previous experience through intermediate skills at the piano. The emphasis will be on studying note values, rhythmic exercises, sight reading, and key signatures. This will take place as a piano class where students will play individually, at times, as well as in groups. The goal of this course is to give students the experience of learning to read music, recognizing and coordinating treble and bass clefs as well as realizing the enjoyment of playing piano as an ensemble. This course would be a strong asset to vocalists who could benefit by teaching themselves new music, sight-reading, and simple accompaniments.

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Unit #/Title	1/Introduction to Playing & C Position	**Time Frame**	7 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.
9.1.12.B: Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.

Big Ideas

- The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced.

Essential Questions

- Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently?
- How do musicians improve the quality of their creative work?
- How do musicians make meaningful connections to creating, performing, and responding?
- Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music?
- Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano?

Content

- C Position Fingerings
- Clefs (bass and treble)
- Rhythms
- Notes in both clefs (C-G in both hands)

Skills

- Identify notes C through G on the keyboard
- Recognize thumbs are 1, etc.
- Practice easy drills to strengthen fingers
- Recognize lines and spaces on both treble and bass clefs and ledger lines
- Recognize simple rhythms
    - Whole Note/Rest
    - Half Note/Rest
    - Quarter Note/Rest
- Perform simple songs using the 5-finger position and simple rhythms

Unit #/Title	2/Introduction to Chords	Time Frame	12 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts help to establish an understanding of chord structures and hand placement.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano? • How is sound organized to create music?
Content	**Skills**
• C Chord, G7 Chord, and F Chord in both left and right hands • Time Signature (4/4 and ¾) • Legato playing • New notes (B and A)	• Identify notes on the piano without visual aids • Name rhythms and apply those rhythms to the knowledge of steady beat • Practice drills to increase fluidity of chord progressions • Recognize new notes that are added • Demonstrate the difference between choppy and legato playing • Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty • Construct their own practice schedule, and diagnose what needs to be accomplished within that schedule • Demonstrate the process to successfully learn and practice a song

Unit #/Title	3/G position/Middle C Position	Time Frame	13 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts help to establish an understanding of chord structures and hand placement in new keys and hand positions.	• Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano? • How is sound organized to create music?

Content	Skills

• G position fingerings
• Sharp sign
• G Major and D7 chords
• The damper pedal
• New notes (E)
• Middle C position fingerings
• Specific articulations/musical symbols
  o Crescendo/diminuendo
  o Fermata
  o D.C. al fine
• New rhythm (8th notes and dotted quarter notes)
	• Identify new notes/chords on the piano without visual aids
	• Practice drills in new keys to increase fluidity of chord progressions
	• Recognize new notes that are added
	• Demonstrate the difference between different dynamics
	• Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty
	  o New notes
	  o Rhythms
	  o Articulations
	  o Damper pedal usage
	  o Musical symbols

Unit #/Title	4/Expanding the 5 Finger Position	Time Frame	6 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate, and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano? • How is sound organized to create music?
Content	**Skills**

• New time signature (2/4)
• Expansion of the 5 finger position, adding 6ths
• The flat sign
• Block chords vs. broken chords
	• Name new notes/chords on the piano without visual aids
	• Practice drills in expanding intervals to expand from 5 finger hand position
	• Recognize new time signatures
	• Demonstrate the difference between different intervals
	• Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty
	  o Flats/sharps
	  o Broken chords
	  o Broken chords

Unit #/Title	5/Scales & Chords in Multiple Keys	Time Frame	9 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano? • How is sound organized to create music?
Content	**Skills**

• The C Major scale
• The G Major scale
• Playing with no set hand position
• Primary chords in C and G major
	• Identify chords on the piano without visual aids
	• Practice drills in the C Major and G Major scales to expand range on keyboard
	• Recognize new dynamics
	• Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty
	  o Songs with scales incorporated
	  o Songs with moving chords outside of the progression

Unit #/Title	6/Classical Piano Repertoire	Time Frame	20 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano? • How is sound organized to create music when keys change and more notes are added?
Content	**Skills**
• Addition of 8th rest, accents • The F Major scale • Primary chords in F Major • Syncopation • Playing in minor keys (a and d minor)	• Identify notes/chords/scales on the piano without visual aids • Practice drills in the F Major, a minor, and d minor scales to expand range on keyboard • Recognize new dynamics • Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty o Songs with scales incorporated o Songs with moving chords outside of the progression o Songs with increased difficulty in rhythms

Unit #/Title	7/Expanding Piano Repertoire	Time Frame	21 periods

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano?
Content	**Skills**

• Expanding fingerings
• Triplets
• Sixteenth notes
• Expanding dynamics
• Expressive playing
	• Identify notes/chords/scales on the piano without visual aids
	• Recognize when a song needs an expanding finger position and how to manage that in their own hands
	• Recognize new dynamics
	• Perform multiple songs with increased level in difficulty
	  o Songs with scales incorporated
	  o Songs with moving chords outside of the progression
	  o Songs with increased difficulty in rhythms

Unit #/Title	8/Piano II	Time Frame	1 Semester

Stage 1 - Identify Desired Results

Standards

9.1.8.A. Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.8 C. Identify and use comprehensive vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
9.1.12.A: Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
9.1.12.G: Recognize the function of rehearsals and practice sessions.

Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• The skills, techniques, elements and principles of the arts can be learned, studied, refined and practiced. • Musicians use tools and resources as well as their own experiences and skills to create music.	• Why is it important to be able to create, recreate and perform music independently? • Why are the established rules, guidelines, and conventions important to performing music? • Why are assigned hand positions critical to playing the piano in different keys around the piano? • How is sound organized to create music?
Content	**Skills**
• Expanding finger positions beyond Piano I • Music History as it relates to their chosen pieces • Learning piano by ear vs. reading music	• Identify notes/chords/scales on the piano without visual aids • Identify rhythms/musical symbols without visual aids • Recognize when a song needs an expanding finger position and how to manage that in their own hands • Perform multiple songs of student choice (approved by teacher) at an appropriate level of difficulty