



SUMMER LAUNCH

Sophomores

School-wide Interdisciplinary Summer Reading Initiative Class of 2028

How Music Works

Schoolwide guidelines:

- Book Assignment
 - **Class of 2028 - *How Music Works* by David Byrne**
 - Science/Fine Arts/Comp Sci/Business (SquareSpace, Data Analytics, and Entrepreneurial Thinking)
 - Creative Project
 - If you choose to produce a digital creative project, submit your project [Here](#). Digital projects are due by 8 am on 9/2.
 - If you did not create a digital project, please check “physical piece of art” [Here](#), and it will be collected in homeroom on 9/2. Please ensure your **name is on your project**.
 - If you have any submission questions, please contact Mr. Sean Grealis at mr.grealis@hermits.com
 - Extemporaneous Writing - prompt will be provided on **September 2, 2025** and completed in homeroom during community time that day
 - Schoolwide Standards
 - Students are encouraged to annotate the hard copy of the book while reading and are permitted to use **ONLY** the hard copy during the writing assessment on September 2, 2025
 - For each book, a reading guide is provided. Students should complete this reading guide as they progress through the book. The reading guide is ungraded and designed to assist the students as they prepare for the extemporaneous writing prompt - think of the reading guide as a study guide. Students will not be permitted to use or reference their completed reading guide when answering the writing prompt.
 - Grading
 - What will the weighting be?
 - Quiz or quiz equivalent
 - Where will the grade land in the grade books?
 - The grade will land in **both** disciplines’ grade books
 - How will the grade be calculated?

- A single, blended grade based on the rubric scores for the creative project and the response to the extemporaneous writing prompt
- The final grade is a 50/50 blend of the rubric score on the creative project and the rubric score on the writing prompt.
- Students who complete only one part (either project or writing prompt) of the assignment on time (firm deadlines) will earn a 50. Students who do not complete either part of the summer work on time (firm deadlines) will receive a zero.

Reading Guide for *How Music Works*

Below are a set of questions separated by chapter for your summer reading assignment. **These questions are not required to be answered for any one specific assignment**, but may help in guiding your reading of the book and assist in the development of your creative project and your notes for the writing assessment that you will have upon your return to school. **This reading guide may not directly be used as a resource for your writing assignment, but you may write notes in your book as a resource.**

Chapter 1 - Creation in Reverse

- How does the architecture or structure of a music venue relate to the type of music performed there?

Chapter 2 - My Life in Performance

- What makes the processes of recording music and performing music live so different from each other?
- Do you think the experience of live music can ever be truly replicated in recorded audio? Why or why not?

Chapter 3 - Technology Shapes Music: Analog

- How did changes in analog recording technology change the way that music was recorded and produced over time?

Chapter 4 - Technology Shapes Music: Digital

- How have advancements in digital music technology affected our understanding of what it means to be a “musician”?

Chapter 5 - Infinite Choice: The Power of Curation

- How have platforms like Apple Music and Spotify affected the types of music that are considered “good” or “popular” in the modern day?
- How have modern listening platforms enabled listeners to understand the deeper connections between different genres of music?

Chapter 6 - In the Recording Studio

- How has the landscape of the music industry been affected by the changes in what it means to be “in the recording studio”?

Chapter 7 - Collaborations

- Collaborations between musical artists can allow for the creation of music that can be innovative and truly unique. How can this practice be applied for innovation in other areas of life?

Chapter 8 - Business and Finances

- How does data analysis of revenue streams for musicians affect the way that music is created, produced and performed?
- Is the art of creating music being compromised by necessary business decisions for musicians that are seeking to stay financially successful?

Chapter 9 - How to Make a Scene

- In what ways can a music scene be related to an ecological community?
- How does the creation of a music scene generate innovation in art?

Chapter 10 - Amateurs!

- How does music exist as both a physical and a psychological construct?
- How has the increased ease of amateur music development affected your own understanding of what music can be?

Chapter 11 - Harmonia Mundi

- What are the characteristics of sound that define our understanding of music?
- How is music related to our own evolutionary history as human beings?

Creative Project Description and Directions

Options for the project:

- **Music and Architecture - Design a Concert Venue**
 - Research how different venues (concert halls, clubs, churches) shape the way music is written and performed using examples from *How Music Works* and real-world examples.

- Choose a type of music and design your own concert venue for the selected style. This design may be created using any desired art form, so long as it is of your own creation.
- Provide a written explanation of your design choices for your venue.
- **Environment and Sound - Artistic Perception of Waves**
 - Research how sound waves can be influenced by different types of environments and locations.
 - Create a visual representation (drawing, painting, sculpture, etc.) of how sound waves exist in at least two different environments/locations. This design may be created using any desired art form, so long as it is of your own creation.
 - Provide a written explanation of
- **The Psychology of Music - Curate a Playlist**
 - Curate a thoughtfully designed music playlist (8-10 songs) that centers on a specific theme of human psychology and emotion. Examples of potential central themes could include (but are certainly not limited to):
 - Motivation and Peak Performance
 - Social Connection and Loneliness
 - Identity and Self-Perception
 - Grief and Healing
 - Memory and Nostalgia
 - For each song selected, provide an explanation of why you chose the song to reflect aspects of your chosen theme.
 - Explain how the playlist as a whole uses music to address your chosen theme.

Choose an option that works toward your strengths as a creator, or maybe try something new if you feel some inspiration. Be sure that your project fully conveys the connection of music to the chosen aspect of the real world!

Rubrics

Creative Assessment

Poor (0 Points)	Good (1 Point)	Exceptional (2 Points)
	Addresses required components of project	
	Originality of work	
	Idea clearly communicated	

	Sufficient Effort	
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Writing Assessment

Poor (0 Points)	Good (1 Point)	Exceptional (2 Points)
	Makes references to specific themes and examples mentioned in-text	
	Answers the prompt directly	
	Relates and connects prompt to self	
	Response indicates that student makes connections between science and art	