



Northern York County School District
Curriculum Overview

Course: High School Piano	
Grade Level: 9-12	
Approval Date:	Length of Time: 90 days
Course Description: <p>Beginner Piano is an introductory course designed for students with little to no prior experience on the piano. This class provides a strong foundation in piano technique, music literacy, and performance skills while fostering creativity, musical expression, and confidence as a musician.</p> <p>Students will learn proper posture, hand position, fingering, and basic keyboard techniques. The course emphasizes music reading, including standard notation, rhythm, key signatures, and dynamics. Students will also develop skills in playing scales, chords, and simple melodies, both as solo performers and in small ensembles.</p> <p>Repertoire includes a variety of musical styles, such as classical, popular, and folk music, giving students the opportunity to explore different genres and develop versatility. In addition to learning to perform written music, students will be introduced to basic improvisation, encouraging creative musical expression.</p> <p>By the end of the course, students will be able to perform simple pieces with correct technique and musicality, read basic sheet music, and apply foundational piano skills that prepare them for further study.</p>	
Course Objectives: <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop proper piano technique, including posture, hand position, fingerings, and wrist movement.• Read and interpret standard music notation, including rhythms, key signatures, dynamics, and articulations.• Play basic scales, chords, and simple melodies with accuracy and expression.• Maintain steady rhythm and tempo, both individually and in ensemble settings.• Perform simple piano repertoire from a variety of musical genres (classical, folk, pop, and jazz).• Demonstrate basic improvisation skills using familiar scales and chord patterns.• Apply effective practice strategies for skill development and musical improvement.• Collaborate with peers in group performances in the classroom.• Reflect on personal progress, performance, and musical interpretation.• Prepare and perform solo pieces with confidence and musicality.	

Related Standards:

National Core Arts Standards for Music Education

- **MU:Cr1.1** — Generate rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic ideas (e.g., improvising or composing simple melodies/chords).
- **MU:Cr2.1** — Organize and develop musical ideas (writing a short melody or accompaniment).
- **MU:Cr3.2** — Share creative work (class composition sharing or improvisation performance).
- **MU:Pr4.2** — Demonstrate understanding of musical notation, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and expressive markings when reading and performing.
- **MU:Pr4.3** — Demonstrate correct posture and hand position
- **MU:Pr5.1** — Rehearse and refine personal or ensemble performances (polishing repertoire)
- **MU:Pr6.1** — Perform music with accuracy, expression, and stage presence (class recital or exam).
- **MU:Re7.1** — Perceive and describe music elements in performance (identifying dynamics, rhythm, articulation).
- **MU:Re9.1** — Evaluate performances and provide constructive feedback (peer performance critiques).
- **MU:Cn10.0** — Relate musical ideas to personal interests, experiences, or cultural context.
- **MU:Cn11.0** — Relate music to history and other disciplines (understanding a piece's cultural or historical background).

Units:

- Introduction to the Piano & Basic Hand Position
- Basic Music Notation & Rhythm
- Playing Simple Melodies
- Left-Hand Accompaniment
- Scales & Key Signatures
- Chords & Simple Harmony
- Dynamics, Articulation, & Expression
- Beginner Repertoire
- Performance & Reflection

Concepts:

- Keyboard Orientation & Basics
- Note Reading & Music Fundamentals
- Rhythm & Counting
- Playing Simple Melodies
- Scales & Key Signatures
- Dynamics & Articulation
- Basic Chords & Harmony
- Repertoire & Performance Skills
- Musical Terms & Symbols

Competencies:

- Demonstrate proper posture, hand position, fingerings, and wrist movement while playing the piano.
- Care for the piano or keyboard, understanding basic maintenance.
- Read and interpret standard music notation, including rhythm, key signatures, dynamics, and articulation.
- Play basic scales and chords accurately and with appropriate finger technique.
- Perform simple melodies and accompaniments with consistent rhythm and tempo.
- Play repertoire from various musical styles, demonstrating musical expression and phrasing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvise short melodic or harmonic ideas using familiar scales and chord patterns. • Compose simple melodies or chord progressions and perform them for the class. • Collaborate with peers in duets, small ensembles, or group performances. • Reflect on personal performance and practice strategies to set goals for improvement. • Present prepared solo or ensemble pieces with confidence, accuracy, and musicality.
Learning Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Warm-Ups – finger exercises, scales, and warmups to build technique. • Repertoire Practice – learning songs from multiple genres, individually and as a group. • Music Reading Exercises – standard music notation. • Call-and-Response Playing – practicing rhythm and melody imitation to improve listening skills. • Ensemble Playing – small group or full-class performances to build collaboration. • Peer Feedback Sessions – performing for classmates and offering constructive feedback. • Guided Listening – analyzing recordings of piano music across styles and eras. 	Performance Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performances of simple songs or exercises. • Group ensemble performances in class • Playing scales, chords, or progressions to show technical growth. • End-of-term performance as a solo and/or as a group.
Other Assessment Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Assessments – graded demonstrations of technique, repertoire, and solo playing. • Music Literacy and Theory Quizzes – reading notes, rhythms, and theory fundamentals. • Practice Journals – reflection on goals, challenges, and strategies. • Listening and Written Reflections – responses to live or recorded piano performances. • Participation and Effort – consistent engagement in rehearsals and group work. 	
Textbook/Primary Resource: Alfred's All in One Piano Course 10- Electronic Piano/Keyboards Beginner-level songbooks in folk, pop, rock, and classical styles. Ensemble piano arrangements for classroom performance.	

Supplemental Resource Materials:

- Online resources
- Teacher generated notes and presentations
- Teacher-generated activities
- Multi-media resources
- YouTube videos
- Musictheory.net