

# Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School



A GRAMMY Foundation  
Signature School

## Piano Handbook Mrs. Martin

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Music has a power of forming the character,  
and should therefore be introduced into the  
education of the young.

~Aristotle

## *Piano Class Expectations*

1. **Respect** your teacher, classmates, and equipment
2. Be **supportive** of each other
3. Leave all food and drink outside the Piano Classroom
4. Be at your assigned keyboard with all materials and your **headphones on within 1 minute** after the bell
5. Raise your hand when you have a question or a comment
6. Work only on piano music during class
7. Put away all music/materials at the end of class
8. Stay in the classroom until the bell rings:

Do not leave early!

9. "I'm having difficulty, but **I'll do my best**" instead of: "I can't do it."
10. 😊

# Piano Class Course Syllabus

Grade Level: 9-12

Text: Students are provided Alfred's "Adult All-In-One" Piano Book and additional sheet music. Students may bring in their own music to work on as well.

Course Credit: 1/2 credit per semester

Prerequisite: none

## **Course Outline/How this class works:**

- ♪ This course explores music through the medium of piano performance.
- ♪ Beginners must follow the book from the beginning and go in sequential order. New concepts and skills are taught that build upon each other. You must not skip pages in the book!
- ♪ Students will explore their creativity and expressing themselves in a positive way.
- ♪ Students will play and listen to a variety of musical styles and cultures brought in by the instructor and the students.
- ♪ You will be an independent learner. If you have disciplined practice *everyday*, then you are guaranteed to be successful!
- ♪ I am here to help you! Please, please, *please* ask me whenever you have any questions!

## **Course Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

- ♪ Play piano with proper technique
- ♪ Perform alone and with others
- ♪ Read music notation
- ♪ Compose music within specific guidelines
- ♪ Transcribe music
- ♪ Improvise following the standard Blues chord progression
- ♪ Listen to, analyze, and describe music
- ♪ Evaluate music and music performance
- ♪ Understand the relationship between music and the world beyond the school setting

## **Method Books:**

Students will receive a method book that will be used daily in class. This book will remain in the piano classroom in their folder. Students may also check out a second copy to keep at home if they plan to practice there as well. All method books must be returned at the end of the year. Any student that does not return the book will be charged a replacement fee of \$15 for each book.

## **Attendance/Tardies/Discipline:**

- Be at your assigned keyboard with all of your materials and your head phones on within **1 minute after the bell**.
- You will be given 2 minutes before the end of the period to put away your music and turn off the keyboards.
- You **may not leave** before the bell rings.

## **Folders/Pencils:**

- Each student will be given a folder to store their journal, exams, worksheets, & music.
- Students should bring a pencil to class to mark their music.
- Each student will treat the school instruments with respect and do their utmost to prevent damage.
- If an instrument or headphone is damaged during class, it is the student and parent/guardian's responsibility to repair or replace the instrument or headphone.

# Piano Class Grading Policy

## Performance Grades/Skills Assessments..... 45%

- \* Students will perform assigned repertoire in groups and alone for a grade.
- \* Students will sign-up 1-2 weeks before a playing deadline and will be graded based on a rubric that will be provided and reviewed ahead of time.
- \* Students will play the material as a “dry run” for the teacher before the due date
- \* Playing Tests not completed by the due dates will receive a 0.

## Classroom Performance..... 45%

- \* Students come to class prepared and have all necessary materials at the beginning of class.
- \* Students play assigned materials and are on task during class time.
- \* Students demonstrate proper playing techniques and posture during class time.
- \* Students complete group work and individual classroom assignments.

To achieve success, students must practice. While playing tests represent culminating activities, daily practice constitutes the most intense learning period. Evidence of effective practice skills must be demonstrated daily. Students must have their materials on a daily basis. Students without an instrument, pencil, or books are still responsible for all the material.

## Written Assignments/Quizzes/Tests..... 10%

- \* Students will be given a Journal that stays in the Piano classroom.
- \* Written evaluations may entail piano / music theory worksheets, compositions, arrangements, and critical listening evaluations.
- \* Quizzes may cover music theory and piano facts

## Reassessment

\*Students will be allowed to reassess certain assignments (except for final exams) up to one week after the due date. Ms. Kornhaus will indicate which assignments will be able to be reassessed.

\*The reassessment grade always replaces the original grade.

\*Students must meet with Ms. Kornhaus to review or relearn the material at least one time before reassessment.

\*Reassessment will take place during class time.

## **GOALS OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

1. To provide a safe environment in which students can learn about music through performance.
2. To help develop creativity, self discipline, character and control.
3. To help students relate music to the world around them.
4. To help students develop the desire to search for knowledge and to appreciate music after their formal education has been completed.
5. To give fundamental understandings and develop advanced skills to those desirous of pursuing a musical career.



# PERFORMANCE Assessment Rubric

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICAL EXCERPT \_\_\_\_\_

All missing components will be circled and one point off.

**Posture – 6 points total** Total \_\_\_\_\_

- ♪ Knee is under the edge of the keyboard
- ♪ Right foot slightly forward
- ♪ Sitting on edge of bench
- ♪ Leaning slightly forward
- ♪ Fingers curved
- ♪ Forearms and wrists are straight

**Technique and Musicality – 4 points total** Total \_\_\_\_\_

- ♪ Left and Right hand are in sync with each other
- ♪ Plays with the correct style (staccato, or legato, etc.)
- ♪ Dynamics are clear and contrasting
- ♪ Pedal is used correctly (heel stays on ground and clears in correct places)

**Note Accuracy – 5 points total** Total \_\_\_\_\_

- ♪ RH plays correct notes
- ♪ LH plays correct notes
- ♪ Both hands play together in sync with each other
- ♪ Plays in the correct octave/range
- ♪ Plays with correct Fingering

**Rhythmic Accuracy – 5 points total** Total \_\_\_\_\_

- ♪ The pulse is present, steady and even
- ♪ The rhythms in LH are correct
- ♪ The rhythms in RH are correct
- ♪ Tempo is steady (does not speed up or slow down)
- ♪ The song flows from beginning to end without stopping

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total (out of 20) \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage \_\_\_\_\_

# Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

## Piano Class Assignment Calendar (approximation)

Every week you will learn a new Hanon exercise and will begin every practice session warming up with Hanon.

### Semester 1

#### September

Notation – quarter, half, whole notes, clef signs

Keyboard familiarity; posture

Right, Left Hand C Position

Songs as appropriate

#### October

Grand staff

Time signature

Melodic, harmonic intervals – 2nds, 3rds

Songs as appropriate

#### November

Melodic intervals – 4ths, 5ths

C major chord

G7 chord

Introducing B for left, right hand

Songs as appropriate

#### December

New time signature

Dotted half note

Dynamics

Slurs and legato playing

F major chord

Songs as appropriate

#### January

Introducing A for right hand

G position

Melodic, harmonic intervals in G position

Sharps

Songs as appropriate

### Semester 2

#### February

G major chord

D7 chord

Block and broken chords

Damper pedal

Songs as appropriate

#### March

Writing G, D7, & broken chords

Introducing E in left, right hand

New position of C major chord

Thumbs on C

Songs as appropriate

#### April

Waltz time

Eighth notes

Dotted quarter notes

Songs as appropriate

#### May

Melodic intervals

Flats

Half, whole steps

Tetrachords

Major scale

Songs as appropriate

#### June

Primary chords in C major

Chord progressions

Blues

Right hand extended position

G major scale

F major scale

Songs as appropriate

Final Exams