

**Department of**

**Music**

**Class Piano 1 Syllabus**

2021-2022

Michael P. Johnson,

Choral Director & Piano Instructor

michael.johnson@cmcss.net

Northwest High School

800 Lafayette Rd

Clarksville, TN 37042

(931) 648-5675

Ext. 1167

**Course Description**

Open to grades 9 – 12. An introduction to the basic social, artistic, and technical elements of music history, piano performance, and theory. The purpose of this course is to cause one’s depth of thinking about music to enhance through the questioning of all that exists when we hear music. This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and odd the keyboards. While playing, students will be working individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing and to learn pieces. There will also be time spent in group instruction on musical notation and theory.

**Course Resources**

All students will have access to computers for this school year. We will be accessing Google classroom, NoteFlight, and various other websites for many of the lessons in this class. It is best to be prepared to use the computer on a daily basis.

**Communication**

Communication is most effective when it is proactive, collaborative, and cordial. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach Mr. Johnson (michael.johnson@cmcss.net).

**Remind101** is a text service you can sign up for such that Mr. Johnson can send text reminders to students/guardians about upcoming events/assignments.

Please take note, I fervently believe that communication is one of the most important aspects of any successful endeavor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me in whatever way necessary if there is information that you need, or if you need to discuss something with me. I want to make sure that all lines of communication remain open at all times, for all of those involved with choir at Northwest.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

After completing this course, you will have a background in music history, piano performance, styles and genres of piano music, cultural influences and music theory, and the ability to play adequately a piece of basic piano music. Even if you are not pursuing a career in music, you will have obtained skills and knowledge that will help you in appreciating music that you would not otherwise appreciate.

Class expectations for students to achieve the following:

1. Students will gain understanding of musical notation.
2. Students will learn basic music theory.
3. Students will develop their individual playing skills.
4. Students will work cooperatively to play in an ensemble.
5. Students will develop effective practice techniques.

**You will determine your own grade in this course. This means you must manage and plan what you want to achieve. I am dedicated to assisting you in achieving the goals and objectives of this course. However, there is an expectation for you to work in achieving whatever level of competence you determine is acceptable for you. This does not mean that I will accept mediocre work or practice from any students.**

**Required Text and Materials (Provided by Student)**

Pencil (Only pencils will be allowed, bring one EVERY DAY to class.)

Headphones or earbuds need to be brought DAILY

Bring your computer DAILY

**Student Responsibilities**

**Participation and Attendance**

This course is equal parts lecture, demonstration, practice and listening. Active and committed participation in activities, discussions and completion of assignments is expected of every student on a daily basis.

1. **Be on time and be prepared** – You should be in your assigned seat, with your materials, when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken promptly and tardies WILL be recorded **(3 tardies = discipline referral)**. No exceptions without a note. Do NOT make being tardy a habit in my class, even if you have a note daily.
2. **No gum, no food, water only** – My classroom may only be a room that you spend 45 minutes in daily. However, I spend my entire day here. Do NOT disrespect my space by chewing gum, eating food, leaving trash on the floor or drinking anything other than water in my classroom. Water is NOT to be sat on a keyboard or piano. It should be on the floor only. You will be held responsible for any equipment, materials, or instruments that are harmed as a result of food, drink, or gum.
3. **Be respectful** – I expect that all students will treat me, their peers, the classroom and classroom equipment with respect. Because of the number of students in the class, we may need to share keyboards. Working together demands respect from everyone. Be patient and be flexible.
4. **Be a good listener** – This applies to both group instruction and individual playing time. When I ask you to listen, I expect you to stop playing immediately and listen to instructions.
5. **Use class time wisely** – This is a course that demands individual responsibility. You are expected to use class time to practice on your instrument, as it is not assumed that all students have a piano at home. Written work is to be completed neatly and on time.
6. **Put your phone AWAY!** - If I see your mobile device out, without prior approval, you **WILL** lose your daily participation grade and your phone **WILL** be confiscated.

**Please Note\* Absence or tardiness on your performance/playing test date:** If you’re absent on your performance/playing test date, you will be expected to perform first on the following school day to with which you attend provided that you have an excused absence for the day of your presentation. An appropriate excuse must be presented within 24 hours of the absence to be able to make up the performance grade.

**Student Expectations**

1. You are expected to participate 100% when studying all areas of this course, regardless of your level of interest or your perceived level of ability. Let me help in deciding what you are capable of accomplishing.
2. You should follow all classroom rules. These include:
   1. Treating your instructors and fellow classmates with respect at all times.
   2. Being on time and prepared for class each day.
   3. Following school rules set forth in the handbook (including not eating in class, wearing a hat/hood, being on your phone, or doing work for other classes at inopportune times).
   4. Working and practicing to the best of your abilities to make this class enjoyable and successful for both your classmates and yourself.
   5. Treating the classroom materials, instruments and equipment with respect. **You will be held financially responsible for any damages that you cause to the equipment in the music room or theatre.**
3. If any student makes fun of or disrespects other students in the process of this course, or if he or she disrupts the course with attempts at disrespect towards the teacher or the course content, that student will receive and automatic deduction of class participation points for the day and will be given alternate assignments until the behavior is corrected. Furthermore, the students, parents or guardians WILL be contacted and if a discipline referral is needed, one will be completed and turned in. This class can be fun if you let it. However, it will not be the most interesting every single day. This does not negate my expectation for you to remain engaged and respectful throughout the class period. Constructive criticism and feedback will always be present. However, critical or insulting remarks will not be allowed.

**Artistry and Citizenship**

The arts, music in particular, require motivation and self-discipline for successful work. Artistry consists of the affective contribution you demonstrate during class time. This includes such attitudes and actions as: a positive work ethic, respect and support for others, discussion, openness to learning, willingness to make mistakes, punctuality, focus, courtesy, and other comparable ways of working. This is a very subjective area to assess. However, it will be based on frequent observations of your in-class work, performance and practice.

**Decorum:**

This is a class in which we will have in depth discussions every day. This requires a lot of courage and support from everyone. Please respect the discussions that we take part in and the comfort levels of your peers and refrain from the following behaviors:

* Talking over other in the class.
* Negative attitudes towards music, the musical preferences of others, and music education.
* Threatening, disruptive, or violent behavior towards classmates or instructor.

**Zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom.**

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over the classroom and maintenance of academic integrity. Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:

* **Offensive language**
* **Harassment of students or instructor**
* **Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught**
* **Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum**
* **Continued use of any electronic devise not authorized for use by the instructor**

**Consequences**

Negative consequences will be recorded on a daily basis unless otherwise needed. Each warning or consequence builds upon the other throughout the week. I expect no student to reach a level three consequence. However, if it is necessary, I will decide what action needs to be taken at that point.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Conference/Classroom Detention\*
3. Modified classwork and issuance of homework or additional assignments
4. Parent-Guardian Phone Call
5. Discipline Referral

**\*According to the NWHS Student Handbook, refusal to attend teacher detention is considered disobedience, which will be referred to the appropriate Assistant Principal for further disciplinary action.**

**Academic Integrity**

Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and forging documentation. Possible disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

* **Academic Misconduct**: Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
* **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one’s own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
* **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit.
* **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

In summary, going online and taking information without proper citations, copying parts of other students’ work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else’s thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. If you work together on an assignment when it is not allowed, it is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please ask me to clarify. Any cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Principal for violating the academic honesty requirements in the student code of conduct.

**Remember--ignorance is NOT a defense. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or “zero” for the exercise, examination or performance, and the administrator may assign suspension at their discretion.**

**Areas of Study**

**Format of Paper, Presentations, and Reports**

All papers, presentations, and reports must be turned in according to the most recent edition of the MLA handbook. If you have any questions about this, please ask the instructor. In short, cite your sources!

**Handing in Assignments on Time**

All assignments are due on the date listed. If the assignment is to be turned in via Google Classroom, **they are due regardless of your attendance in class.** Written work is accepted late for full credit provided an adequate excuse is provided. Without written excuse, written work will be accepted one class period late for half credit. After the grace period, late work will not be accepted. DO NOT wait until the week before a report card or progress report to try and complete missing work.

**Grading Scale**

Your grade will consist of the following:

50 pts/weekly Class Participation and Practice

100 pts/weekly Playing Tests and Assignments

100 pts/weekly Written Quizzes

50 pts/weekly Journal Checks

**A** 93-100 **B** 85-92 **C** 75-84 **D** 70-74 **F** 0-69

**Schools PLP & Google Classroom**

In the event that Northwest High School is closed due to health concerns or inclement weather, students will still be expected to continue this course in a remote setting. I will continue to post classroom materials and assignments to the Schools PLP Platform or Google Classroom for Piano. During this uncertain time, I want to ensure that there is not a lapse in your learning.

Work posted on the Schools PLP Platform or Google Classroom is vital to your success and will be graded for inclusion in your final score for this course. If you have internet connectivity issues at home or where you will be completing coursework remotely, you should address those concerns with me as soon as possible. Not completing coursework during unexpected school closure will negatively impact your grade and could ultimately lead to your failing the course.

**Virtual Requirements for Virtual Synchronous and Remote Learning**

The following expectations are required of all students who are participating in learning via remote virtual learning. These expectations are in place for virtual students during synchronous learning and will be a requirement for all students should the district make the decision to switch to a remote only learning option.

Virtual students must log in to their School’s PLP link via their Class Link located on the students’ page of the CMCSS website each day of their scheduled class. Students will complete the Google daily attendance form that is located in their School’s PLP account. Additionally, students will be expected to complete an exit ticket located within their School’s PLP account. These factors will contribute to adequate documentation of attendance requirements. It is in the best interest of the student to make certain that each day of their class period is made available for the purpose of live streaming into the lesson via Zoom for the entire duration of the class period.

For synchronous learning, students will use Zoom to video conference into the lesson from the start of class time and will remain in the lesson for the entire duration of the class. This will also be the method of delivery for remote learning for all students. Zoom sessions will be recorded on a daily basis and will be used for review by the teacher for purposes of disciplinary issues as well as for checking participation in issuing daily rehearsal and participation grades. These recorded videos will be used by the teacher for the purpose of checking student behavior, participation, and review of such videos can and will have an influence on student grades should the student not meet requirements that are expected of them.

**Disclaimer:** No student is permitted to record with any device any portion of the Zoom lesson or of the class period for any purposes. The teacher retains the sole right of recording the Zoom sessions and class periods. Therefore, any student who violates these rules of recording for any purpose without permission by the teacher is in violation of classroom rules and district policy. Student security is of highest priority. The use of recording devices during class period can violate both school security, student and teacher privacy, and can violate copyright laws, all of which are considered unacceptable. This includes the altering of videos for use of social media, posting clips, pictures, or full videos of class sessions to social media without teacher approval, and/or the unapproved distribution of clips, pictures, or full videos via any form of cellular messaging, email, or other messaging applications or devices. In essence, students, parents/guardians, and learning mentors do NOT have legal permission to record any portion of the class period for any purpose. Failure to adhere to this requirement can and will result in removal from the class, alternative assignments, and/or the inability for students to Zoom into the class period resulting in a separate time of Zoom session to make up for work missed during rehearsal. It is in the best interest of the student, parent/guardian, or learning mentor to refrain from recording or taking pictures for any purpose during the Zoom session or face-to-face class period. The internet can be a scary place. In order to maintain safety and security of students and faculty, these expectations are non-negotiable. Should a student, parent/guardian, or learning mentor need to screenshot, record, or take a picture of any portion of face-to-face class or Zoom sessions, he/she/they must request approval from the teacher.

**Individual Online Learning Etiquette and Expectations**

* Accessing Zoom session should be made using your CMCSS email accounts. The zoom links will be located in the School’s PLP account and should be accessed through School’s PLP each day.
* This is a virtual classroom; therefore, appropriate classroom behavior is expected.
  + Dress respectfully
  + Act respectfully
  + Talk respectfully
  + Operate like everything you do is being recorded, because it is.
* Log into your class or meeting from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
* Please keep your audio on mute until you want to speak. This will help to limit background noise.
* Consider using a headset with an external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities. This is not a requirement.
* Close unneeded application on your computer to optimize the video quality.
* If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the “Raise Hand” feature. Then unmute yourself after you are called on by your teacher.
* When you are speaking, let others know that you are finished by saying something like, “That’s all,” or “I’m done,” or “Thank you,” so that everyone knows you have finished your comments.
* If you would like to use the chat box, remember that is it public, and record of the chat is kept and archived. Appropriate language and respectful conduct are expected in the chat box. Failure to meet these expectations can and will result in appropriate disciplinary action which may include the inability to use Zoom in future lessons.
* Make sure you have all materials necessary when starting the Zoom session so that you can remain present in the Zoom session for the entire time.
* Make sure that your individual video is on so for the entire duration of the Zoom session.
* Only approved CMCSS backgrounds may be used for the duration of the Zoom session. There should be no distractions in the background of a student’s Zoom session.
* Please take care of personal needs (appropriate dress, basic hygiene, eating, chewing gum, talking to others in your home, etc.) prior to entering a Zoom classroom.
* The use of profanity either in the chat box or in the video session, mouthed or vocalized, as well as the display of inappropriate hand signals to include derogatory origin or gang affiliation is strictly prohibited at all times.
* When signing out of the session, type your CMCSS issued email address in the chat box to document your attendance.

**Music Fees/Fundraising**

**Music Fee**

Each class piano student is required to pay a **$10** music fee, **due Friday, September 17th.** This fee helps to defray costs such as the purchasing of music. Students who take advantage of a free or reduced lunch benefits must confidentially speak with Mr. Johnson to cover the required fees. Please do not hesitate to speak to me in private about this issue. Conversations of this nature remain confidential.

**Money/Payments**

Checks should be made out to *Northwest High School* and will be deposited immediately in the school accounts by the NWHS bookkeeper. All money should be paid in check/money order (cash a last resort) so that appropriate records will be in place and payments can be easily tracked. If the last name on the check is different than that of the student, please put the student’s name in the “memo” line. All payments will receive a receipt.

**Fundraising**

There will be an opportunity for you to assist in fundraising for the piano classes. This will be in efforts to purchase instruments for student use in current and future classes. More information on fundraising will be made given as it becomes available.

**Caveat: This document may be adjusted during the course of the semester at the discretion of the instructor.**

**Class Piano Syllabus Acknowledgement Form**

**DUE FRIDAY, August 20th, 2021**

Student Name:

Grade:

We have read the choir handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations.

* I, the student, understand that by **signing this contract** I am agreeing to uphold all expectations and accept consequences if I do not.
* I, the parent, understand by **signing this contract** that I will communicate with the teacher when necessary any problems or conflicts, so they may be worked out in a timely manner.
* I have read and understand the policies and expectations documents in Mr. Johnson’s 2021-2022 Class Piano syllabus. I understand that returning this paper is mandatory, and I pledge to abide by and hold my student accountable for the information in this document. I also understand that I will work with Mr. Johnson to uphold the consequences listed within this syllabus and will communicate with him should any issues arise.
* We have read and agree to the individual online learning etiquette and expectations and agree to meet the requirements for virtual synchronous and remote learning. **This is a contractual agreement.**

Signed,

(student) (date)

(parent/guardian) (date)

**Parents, please answer:**

Is it okay to contact you during the day? **yes** **no**

If so, at what number? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What time in the evening might be best to call? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At what number? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Electronic submission of both the syllabus acknowledgement form can be completed by scanning the QR code provided here. Google sign-in is required. Please use student email credentials to complete the form. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Mr. Johnson. | A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated |