

Piano Addendum

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“Life is like a piano. What you get out of it depends on how you play it.” (Tom Lehrer)

“Color is the keyboard, the eyes are the harmonies, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul.” (Wassily Kandinsky)

I am so excited that you have chosen to learn piano this year. The first quote above basically encompasses how I run this class - what you get out of it depends on what you put into it. I have chosen a method that teaches you how to play a level of piano that a normal piano student would learn in private piano lessons for 2.5 years in only 9 weeks!! It's not going to be easy - you are going to have to work hard! This is not an easy “A” class (and if your friends have told you otherwise they are lying to your face ;).

In order to excel @ this new skill, you must practice * for 20 minutes every day. If you don't have a piano or small keyboard @ home, you can stay after school or come early to school & practice before/after classes start/end. It is a requirement to practice each & every day & keep track of that rehearsal time. A practice record (that shows me what you practiced every day & reflects about what you studied & learned) will be due every two weeks. This will be a graded assignment (along w/the other things mentioned below).

Requirements:

- Develop a daily habit/system of going through their exercises & songs each day, focused and with laser intensity while present in class.
- Biweekly practice records (280 minutes = 100% or +4/4 SBG standard-based grading scale)
- Unit exams at the end of each week's instruction on the material presented out of the 67 Fun Songs (purple spiral-bound book) by Jon Schmidt.
- Passing off weekly songs from each Lesson/unit in 67 Fun Songs (purple spiral-bound book)
- Passing off #1-12 exercises/group from A Dozen A Day (pink cover book) by Edna Mae Burnham, every 2 weeks (5 groups in all).
- Checking off note names for each song/exercise in our books.
- Participation/performance in Final Recital @ the end of the semester - required (not optional).

*NOTE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please help your student find these 20 minutes (whether it be before bed each night, right after they get home from school, after their chores, or in the morning before breakfast, or drop them off early @ school so they can practice in the piano lab or let them stay after school so they can practice in the piano lab) where they can practice their music so they can be a better musician @ school.

** If you have prior piano experience, please come talk to me and I can have you assist me with tutoring your peers & helping to pass songs/exercises off when the students are ready. I will not hold you back if you are ready to learn harder songs. You can have a harder exercise book than the beginning students & I can challenge you with a more difficult method book if the 67 Fun Songs method is too easy. I am willing to challenge you if you are willing to put in the effort. You will NOT receive a grade for sitting still doing nothing while saying, “I already play the piano.” I play too, but I still have more to learn and I would LOVE to be in lessons again if I had time ;)