



Performing Arts Department
Piano Handbook
2011-2012

Course: Advanced Keyboard
Instructor: Mrs. Connelly
Office Hours: M & F 8:15 a.m.

Room: 124
Phone: 407-858-5522 ext. 4124
Email: Courtney.Connelly@ocps.net

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop advanced performance skills on the piano in a solo setting using appropriate literature. Performance techniques, musical knowledge, critical analysis, and aesthetic response are emphasized. The content will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- individual technical skills
- music literacy/theory
- ear training
- elements and characteristics of music
- class performances
- recital preparation
- exposure to various styles and genres
- connections between music and other subject are

Materials:

A keyboard, beginning piano book and headphones will be provided. Books may be purchased for practice at home for \$10.00 at any time.

Grading:

Grades are based on a student's Time on Task (40%) during rehearsal time, a weekly check-off (20%), technique exercises and theory assignments (10%), In-Class performances (10%), and a Music Theory Exam in the first nine weeks and a Recital Performance during the second nine weeks (20%).

Progress Book:

Student grades can be followed through Progress Book. Please register at <http://progressbook.ocps.net> Grades will be updated weekly.

♪ CURRICULUM OUTLINE ♪

Time on Task (TOT) Grade (40 %)

Students will also be given a Time on Task grade (TOT) weekly. A satisfactory grade is earned through **applied/focused/on-task playing time** during group instruction and individual practice. During this time, students should be practicing the assigned material in order to prepare for the CHECK-OFF, which is the assessment. This is an individualized instructional piano class – students are encouraged to move at their own pace. If you think you have finished a piece early, check with your instructor to see if you are ready to move on to the next piece.

Check off Grade (20 %)

A “check-off” is a piece of music in the book that represents a musical concept or group of concepts. Throughout the course of study, certain pages of music will be designated as check-offs. Instruction and demonstration will be given on these pages, and students will be given time to practice during class. Fridays are designated CHECK OFF days, unless otherwise scheduled. Students must be present on check-off days in order to receive a grade. If a student is absent on a check off day, communication from the parent/guardian must be submitted to the instructor on the NEXT school day in which they return. The note should include a parent name and contact number. The instructor will most often call to confirm the excused absence.

Technique Exercises and Music Theory Assignments (10%)

Students will be given various exercises and scales to develop their playing technique. An exercise and scale book will be used in class for reference. As a group and individually, students will practice technique, chords and scales. Students will learn Music Theory to reinforce musical concepts every Wednesday. Instruction will be given sequentially so that students can gradually develop an understanding of musical concepts. Students may work at their own pace, but should have the required assignments completed by the scheduled due dates.

In-Class Performances (10%)

It is important for students to learn proper performance and audience etiquette, as well as experience the feel of a piano versus a keyboard, therefore, throughout the year; students will have the opportunity to perform for one another on a concert piano. Students will be able to choose a check-off piece to perform for the class in which they can perform with or without the music. These usually take place on a Thursday and Friday and can sometimes count as the check-off grade for that week.

Theory Quizzes – First -Third Nine Weeks (20%)

A quiz will be given at the end of each nine weeks that is based on the material from the music theory lessons. To ensure the students fully understand the material, these quizzes will be given after the notebooks have been graded and returned. However, during the fourth nine weeks, the **recital grade** will take the place of the Theory quiz grade.

Piano Performances – (20%)

A Performing Arts Review, various Holiday performances, and a classical Piano Recital will be presented by all Keyboard students during the spring semester. Performance is a vital part of the music curriculum as it showcases the knowledge gained during the course. Recitals count as a grade and students are expected to participate. The recital date is set in advance so that all may plan accordingly. They are free of charge and students are encouraged to invite family and friends.

OCTOBER 11 – Performing Arts Review @ 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria (select students)

DECEMBER 2 – Piano Community Tour – (Assisted living centers)

DECEMBER 15 – Winter Chorus and Piano performance @ 7:00 p.m. at LNHS

MAY 5 – Solo & Ensemble Assessment @ LNMS (exact times TBA)

MAY 29 – MS Keyboard I and II @ 6:30 p.m. in the Chorus Room

If an unexpected emergency (hospitalization, extreme illness) should occur on the evening of the recital, the student should present a note to the instructor the **NEXT SCHOOL DAY** (or upon returning to school) explaining the circumstances. If a note is presented within the given amount of time and the absence is excused, the student will be given a make-up assignment to replace the grade. Students who fail to bring a note within the given amount of time, or simply choose not to show up for the recital will receive a zero for the Recital Grade.

<u>NINE WEEK GRADING SCALE</u>	
90 - 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60 - 69	= D
0 - 59	= F

Absences from class

In order to earn Time on Task points, which is 40% of your grade, you must be present and working diligently on your piano assignment. Students who regularly miss class are not able to effectively reinforce the needed playing skills and will risk failing the course. Absent students will also miss valuable information concerning music theory and music history. **If a student is absent during a check off or “in-class” performance, he or she must have a parent contact the instructor to excuse the absence by the NEXT school day upon which they return. Otherwise, the check off or “in-class” performance MAY NOT be made up.**



Professional Student Expectations:

This is an elective course that you will truly enjoy and benefit from if you put forth diligent effort. You will have access to the computer lab on certain days to refine your music theory skills. Because it is an elective, it is assumed that each student desires to be in this class and is expected to:

- ❖ Be on time and prepared for class
- ❖ demonstrate and maintain a positive attitude and willingness to learn
- ❖ demonstrate respect towards other piano students at all times.
- ❖ respect classroom/piano lab rules including the proper handling of equipment at all times.
- ❖ treat all faculty/administrators and substitutes with respect.
- ❖ to be focused and disciplined during individual practice time.

Students who do not follow the professional student expectations may be subject to one or more of the following consequences:

- ❖ Loss of points towards “check-offs/time on task”.
- ❖ Loss of playing and computer privileges
- ❖ Student conference
- ❖ Parental contact
- ❖ Parent conference
- ❖ Referral to administrator

Classroom Rules

The following rules are in effect at all times.

- ❖ Food, drinks, gum or candy are not permitted at anytime
- ❖ Students are responsible for having all materials at their keyboards when class begins.
- ❖ Students are responsible for putting away all materials at the end of class
- ❖ Please respect the space and the keyboard equipment.
- ❖ The class piano may be used with permission only.

PIANO CLASS CONTRACT 2011-12

Student Name _____ **Period** _____

DUE BY September 30, 2011

We have thoroughly read the PIANO HANDBOOK and understand the guidelines and expectations for the course.

We understand that enrollment in this course is a privilege and that positive behavior, attendance, and work ethic is expected from the student.

We understand that if a student should miss a scheduled check-off day or “in-class” performance, the parent will contact the instructor the following school day that they return in order for the student to make up the grade.

We understand that students are required to participate in the Piano events listed in the handbook and that transportation to and from this event will need to be provided.

Should an unexpected emergency arise the evening of a recital, we understand the appropriate procedures to follow so that the student’s grade is not negatively affected.

We understand that the student should treat all music equipment with respect and that we are financially responsible if damage should occur as a result of misbehavior.

I understand that as the parent or guardian, I may contact the instructor at any time to discuss a concern with my child and the piano class.

Student Name : _____ **Period:** _____ **Grade :** _____

Student EMAIL Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian EMAIL Address: _____

Contact Phone #s _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE: _____