

PIANO I

Course Syllabus & Piano Lab Policies— 2020-2021

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🎵 Course Overview:

Blair's Piano I Class has been developed so that students, regardless of musical experience, may have a chance to develop their piano skills, come to learn the theory behind the music, gain an appreciation of music and its role in our society, and the importance of keyboard instruments throughout the history of music and throughout various styles, genres, and cultural expressions of music. Our objectives, therefore, are as follows:

1. To demonstrate regular progress in the development of each student's piano playing skills, with an emphasis on note and rhythm accuracy, technique, evidence of listening and musical sensitivity, and, when appropriate, creativity and ensemble playing skills.
2. To demonstrate a basic understanding of music theory, including pitch and rhythmic notation, interval, scale, and chord construction, song structure, and aural skills.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of music in historical and cultural context and an ability to distinguish between style and genres within the keyboard repertoire.

All students are expected to participate fully in daily class practice, listening assignments, journal writing and computer-based assignments. Students will prepare for 5-6 individual playing assessments and participate in the end-of-semester recital.

🎵 Classroom Policies:

Welcome to Montgomery Blair's state-of-the-art Piano Lab! Students are privileged to have access to this technology but they also have an obligation to respect the items therein. Therefore,

- No marking of keyboards in any way.
- Keyboards are NOT to be misused: pounding, swiping, leaning causes damage.
- No marking/writing in books – students will not be graded if there is writing on assigned music!
- Headsets must be used at all times. It is the student's responsibility to handle them carefully. Cables should be put on top of the keyboard when leaving the station.
- There is no initial charge for use of keyboards, headphones, books, and computers. **However**, for loss or damage students will be held responsible at the following rates:

Music book -- \$15.00

Headphones -- \$110 for disappearance; \$35 to replace plug, \$20 replacement

Piano keyboard ---\$700 maximum fee

Computer fee = Market Value

- **No food, drinks, candy or gum is allowed because of the sensitive equipment.**
 - Water is allowed but must be kept in a closed container on the floor.
- Kindly refrain from playing during InfoFlow, while the teacher is talking to the class, and during music listening activities.

Grading:

Grades will be based on total points, and adhere to the updated MCPS grading policy.

Your grade will be made up of scores on the following types of assessments:

- Musical performance: Learning and performing piano pieces as assigned by the instructor. Points will be awarded for each completed playing assignment based on the accuracy of notes, rhythms, and fingerings and increasingly, aspects of musical expression.
- Oral and/or written critique and analysis of live and recorded performances, including self-critiques.
- quizzes, tests, graded worksheets, or computer assignments, demonstrating knowledge and understanding of concepts of music theory and notation, musicianship, music history and appreciation.
- Group projects such as duet or quartet performances, creative arranging projects, or improvisation “jams” demonstrating stylistic awareness and ability to apply technical skills in a given genre.

Per MCPS’ grading policy, in order to receive credit for assignments, students who complete the basic requirements of an assignment, and/or achieve 33% accuracy on said assignment, will receive no less than 50% credit for it. If this minimal result is not achieved, the student gets a 0 for the assignment.

Due dates and deadlines will be posted with each assignment. Assignments that are submitted after the due date but before the deadline are subject to a 10% loss of credit. Assignments submitted after the deadline will not be graded and the student will receive a zero.

There is no homework in this class, perse, but students are encouraged to practice outside of class and may make arrangements to use the various school keyboard instruments.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a “hands-on” class and students need to be in class and participating in order to meet the course objectives.

I have read and understand the piano lab policies and expectations as stated.

Student:(printed name)_____ (signature)_____

Parent/Guardian signature_____ date_____