

# **Piano Class Syllabus**

## **Ms. Speidel, Rm. 136**

### **I. Course Description**

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of piano playing. Instruction will focus on proper playing technique and encompass a variety of musical styles. You will learn a vocabulary of chords, accompaniment patterns, and proper playing techniques. You will also learn how to play melodies in several positions and possibly participate in ensemble playing. In addition to the performance proficiencies that must be met, there may be few written evaluations. Please make a strong effort to UNDERSTAND and MASTER all parts of all units, written and played, as they build upon each other. What you learn in each unit will be useful later in the course.

Your progress in piano playing is almost totally dependent upon you. I will help you and guide you, but you are in charge of absorbing the instruction, applying it, and disciplining your fingers. No one else can accomplish progress for you. With a positive attitude and a firm end-goal in mind, this class will provide you with the opportunity to work hard and practice in a disciplined manner to improve your piano skills.

### **II. Objectives**

- Develop technical facility on the keyboard
- Use technical skills to create an aesthetically pleasing and stylistically appropriate performance
- Master a diverse repertoire within ability level
- Continue to improve musical literacy and audiation skills
- Demonstrate theoretical knowledge in practice and writing
- Critically analyze musical performances

### **III. Materials**

- Pencil, notebook, folder for handouts and music
- Headphones (provided)
- Keyboard (provided)

### **IV. Requirements**

- Be at your instrument, in your seat, with headphones within a minute of the bell
- Have all materials at all times
- Come to class every day with an open mind and a positive attitude
- Participate in informal and formal performances

### **V. Grading and Evaluation Criteria**

All work will be based on a point system. Major tests and performances are worth 100 points. Late work will be reduced ten points per day. There will be a midterm and a final exam. *I look forward to an outstanding, enlightening, exciting year together!*

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|-----|--------------------------------|
| 15% | Class Participation            |
| 15% | Homework Assignments           |
| 20% | Quiz (Playing and/or Written)  |
| 20% | Weekly Evaluation              |
| 30% | Tests (Playing and/or Written) |

