

Elementary Piano Class 2020-2021 – each semester .5 credit

Mrs. Alexandra Penkalskyj

Welcome to the ELEMENTARY PIANO CLASS! Designed for the student who has never played the piano or who wishes to continue her skill development. By the end of the school year, you will know your way around the piano keyboard, understand simple note-reading and rhythm, and will be playing numerous pieces or songs. If you are beyond the beginning level, you will develop practicing skills that will help you learn the music you wish to enjoy.

Objectives

1. Develop the student's piano skills to the degree that she can eventually learn a piece of music on her own.
2. Apply ease of note reading and fluency in rhythmic feel to the keyboard.
3. Understand principles of fingering, which facilitates keyboard activity.
4. Develop the inner ear.
5. Develop a good sense of beat and correct rhythmic response to music.
6. Develop independence of musical thought and a critical "ear."
7. Convey musical and/or inner meaning in performance.

Big Ideas

1. Develop a positive attitude toward the arts.
2. Develop listening skills and appreciation for the elements of music.
3. Strengthen correct exercise and study habits.
4. Develop the ability to apply all theoretical knowledge to performance.
5. Learn how to analyze and apply analyzed results to musical decision-making.
6. Find any as yet unknown artistic and creative skills within oneself.

Piano Materials

1. Faber: Adult All-in-One Book 1 or Book 2
2. Additional popular repertoire
3. Faber: Adult Christmas, Book 1 or Book 2
4. Simple scales, chords, cadences

Class methodology

1. The class is self-paced.
2. Students will work independently, keep record of their playing.
3. The class will also make music together with special projects.
4. Instructor will work with students one at a time (with proper social distancing) for attention to detail and for covering individualized needs.

Rubrics:

Pieces – 60% of grade, taking into account...

Notes

Rhythm

Articulation

Dynamics

Tempo

Technique

90 – 100 – the majority of the above elements are accurate

82 – 89 – four out of six elements are accurate; effort evident

75 – 81 - inaccuracies in all elements, with little effort evident

Theory – 40% of grade

Completion of Assignment

100 – Work completed with complete accuracy

90-99 – Minor discrepancy

82-89 - Several errors

75-81 – Major errors but effort evident

69-0 – Very little to none completed

During the Hybrid Schedule time, class days will focus on playing the piano. A music theory assignment will be given for the “off days.”

If we go entirely virtual at any point, the musical work will be personalized for each student’s situation. The students who have an instrument at home will have individual Microsoft Team meetings with the teacher. Students who do not have a piano or keyboard at home will focus on music theory worksheets, with teacher coaching, to develop musical knowledge away from the instrument.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature