

8th Grade

Music & Drama

2017-2018

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Class Introduction & Over-View

Music & Its Function in Society: Students will learn about music and its role in society through accompaniment and enhancement of social activities, and its relation to marketing and business.

Guitar: Students will learn to play melodies and chords on the guitar, as well as gain a basic understanding of music theory. Students will have periodic playing tests to demonstrate their skill progression. Skills will be built sequentially, and lead into the Blues unit.

Blues: Students will study the regional styles of Blues, Blues form, and famous Blues artists. The unit will end with students composing and performing their own Blues songs.

Acting/Drama/Storytelling: Students will learn about the art of storytelling through watching performances, mimicking techniques, and creating and presenting their own stories. This unit will lead into the *Romeo & Juliet* and *West Side Story* unit.

Theater history, William Shakespeare and *Romeo & Juliet*: Students will study several aspects of theater history and occupations, the life and times of William Shakespeare, the plot of *Romeo & Juliet*, and watch and discuss several scenes from various film adaptations of the play.

Musical Theater and *West Side Story*: Students will learn about the evolution and mechanics of Musical Theater, as well as the creation of *West Side Story*. Students will also watch and discuss the film adaptation of the musical, focusing on character traits, plot development, and musical styles.

Materials

Bring these things to class everyday:

*School iPad

*Folder for notes/handouts

*Pen or pencil

*Notebook or loose-leaf paper

There will be a place for students to leave their materials in class.

Rules & Expectations

PARR expectations are in effect in Music & Drama Class:

Be Productive...

Come to class on time.
Come prepared.
Stay on task.

Be Appropriate...

Keep yourself to yourself.
Talk at a decent volume.
Use acceptable language.

Be Responsible...

Do your own work.
Work to the best of your ability.
Ask questions.
Come prepared.
Follow directions.

Be Respectful...

...To those around you.
...To your surroundings.
Help the situation.
Raise your hand to comment,
ask a question, etc.

Use technology appropriately and responsibly.

Procedures

Entering the classroom:

1. Enter through double doors and collect your materials.

If you forget some of your materials, then you may borrow some. However, repeated offenses can result in PARR write-ups and consequences (Responsibility, Productivity).

2. Sit quickly and quietly, and follow directions on the board.

During class:

1. Do not eat food or chew gum in class; water is allowed.
2. If you need to use the restroom, raise your hand and ask.
3. Forgotten homework may be turned in after class; you may **not** go to locker.

Exiting class:

1. Wait to be dismissed.
2. Return materials to your class bin if you choose to do so.
3. Exit through the single door.

Grading and Homework Policies

In accordance with the 8th Grade Team homework policy, homework is to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will be accepted for one week; students will receive 10% off their grade per day. Late “Completion Points” assignments will receive 50% of the total points if late.

If you are absent, see Mr. Simpson or Ms. Murray to discuss make-up work.

Grades for Music & Drama are based on the following categories:

*Class worksheets and homework

*Tests and quizzes

*Performance assessments (Speeches, Scenes, Songs, Guitar, etc.)

MacArthur’s Academic Honesty Policy applies to General Music classes.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Simpson or Ms. Murray.

Mr. Simpson

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