

## **Music Theory/Piano**

### **Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Mr. West

Location: Rm. 901G Piano Laboratory

E-mail: juwest@crosbyisd.org

Conference: 2<sup>nd</sup> period and by appointment

### **Course Description (from 2014-2015 Academic Planning Guide):**

Music theory for instrumental or vocal study, open to all students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music. Students will learn music notation, music composition, pitch and rhythmic notation, scale structure, intervals, chord structure and movement, part-writing, ear training, sight-reading, and creative self-expression. All skills learned will be applied while learning to play the piano and writing original compositions. Given the group nature of instruction and the fact that this is a comprehensive survey course in music theory and piano studies, students who are serious about piano should consider private lessons.

### **Course Structure**

This class will consist of approximately 25% music theory instruction and 75% group piano instruction. Students will learn music notation fundamentals and develop an understanding of artistic performance at the keyboard. We'll also do a unit on the history of music (past to present).

### **Materials**

Loose-leaf or notebook paper

Pencil (**no** pens)—please bring to class something with which to write **every day!**

### **Class Rules**

1. Show respect for oneself, others, and the music at ALL TIMES.
2. Come to class prepared with supplies (including a good ATTITUDE!)
3. When the instructor is speaking, students are to listen.
4. Participate fully in discussions and activities. Put forth your best effort at all times
5. **Have an open mind. We are all here to learn. Don't judge a piece of music until YOU have FULLY experienced it!**

### **The Keyboard Laboratory**

Our classes will meet in the Piano Lab and Choir Room. Extra practice is encouraged! If you would like to practice, the lab will be open most days after school. **The lab is NOT open during lunches, or during choir classes.** Please check with Mr. West regarding specific availability.

### **Grades and Assessment**

60% performance assessments/*Master Classes*/projects/exams

40% daily work/quizzes

#### **Late Work**

There is **no homework** for this course. Ample time is given to complete all assignments and projects in class. However, please note that *if in-class time is not used wisely, students will necessarily require outside time. 10 points will be deducted for each day* an assignment is **late**. Assignments will not be accepted more than 4 days late. No exceptions. If you're having trouble complete assignments on time, please communicate accordingly.

#### **Absences and Make-up Work**

It is the **student's responsibility to obtain any work missed** during absence upon return. Assignments will be due on the same timeline as other students. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, the student must provide valid reasoning with legitimate documentation (as determined by the instructor) to be allowed to turn in that assignment upon return. If a student is absent on a test or performance assessment day, it is the student's responsibility to contact Mr. West and arrange a time to make-up the test or performance assessment within ONE WEEK of return.

\*\*as mentioned above, there is no homework for this course. Be productive during class time!

#### **Projects/Tests**

Pianist Profile

Composition Project

2-3 Exams per grading period

#### **Performances**

Piano performance progress will be evaluated on Performance Assessment and *Master Class* days. Performance assessments are informal evaluations of student progress. They are not announced beforehand. For each *Master Class*, students will perform for their peers and then get feedback from the instructor. It's an "open" lesson. *Master Class* dates will be announced in advance.

\*\*2-3 Music Theory/Piano students may be selected *by audition* to perform for a public audience at the Spring SING! (Thursday, May 21, 2015).