



Beginning Piano

Course Syllabus 2021-2022

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Course Description

Beginning Piano provides students with individualized training in basic piano technique, musical notation, history, and culture. This course is designed to develop skills both individually and in small groups. Students will have the opportunity to explore repertoire from different cultures and historical periods as they learn the basics of note reading and performance technique. A command of the basic elements of music is developed through exercises in composing and arranging. Students will also learn about influential musicians from the past and present who have contributed to the development of the instrument. Students need **no prior experience** playing the piano to enroll in Beginning Piano.

Goals for Student Learning

Skills for Success addressed in this course include:

- Learning skills: students will practice and evaluate performance skills.
- Thinking skills: students will think creatively to solve musical problems and achieve goals.
- Communication skills: students will evaluate selected musical compositions.
- Students will formulate, apply, and communicate criteria for evaluating performances.
- Interpersonal skills: students will work together in small groups to achieve common goals.
- Technology skills: students will learn the fundamentals of standard musical notation in both treble and bass clefs.

Textbooks and Materials

The primary textbooks used in Beginning Piano are *The Older Beginner Piano Course* by James Bastien and *Progressive Class Piano, 2nd Edition* by Elmer Heerema. Students are **not required** to purchase the textbook. The books are available for use during class time but are not available to be taken home.

STUDENTS MAY NOT WRITE IN ANY OF THE TEXTBOOKS. Students will incur financial obligations if the textbooks are damaged or defaced in any way.

Virtual Learning

- All class materials will be available on itsLearning. Students are expected to check itsLearning frequently. All assignments & materials will be listed by week under the “Resources” tab.
- Students must abide by BAHS Virtual Norms (in itsLearning Week 1 Folder)
- Students are responsible for submitting online work on time. Emailed work will not be accepted.

Required Supplies

- A folder or 3-ring binder in which to keep music and other handouts is required.
- Students should bring a pen and pencil to class.

Course Outline

A general overview of the concepts that will be covered in Beginning Piano.

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Playing Posture | ▪ Scales | ▪ Music History & Culture | ▪ Improvisation |
| ▪ Playing Technique | ▪ Hand Positions | ▪ Primary Chords | ▪ Composition |
| ▪ Basic Musical Notation | ▪ Key Signatures/Circle of Fifths | ▪ Major/Minor triads | ▪ Musical Interpretation |
| ▪ Rhythm and meter | ▪ Tempo | ▪ 7 th chords | ▪ Musical Expression |
| ▪ Bass and Treble Clef | ▪ Performance Practice | ▪ Chord progressions | ▪ Arranging |
| ▪ Notes on the Staff | | ▪ Chord Function | ▪ Accompanying |

Piano Lab Rules and Procedures

- All materials in the Piano Lab will be treated with respect.
- No food or drink is allowed in the piano lab.

- Students should enter quietly and begin working individually.
- At the conclusion of class, students should make sure they complete the following tasks:
 - Turn off the monitor and computer.
 - Make sure the keyboard desk is pushed in.
 - Turn off the keyboard.
 - Make sure all chairs are pushed in.
 - Gently place headphones on the plastic music stand and tuck the wires neatly away.
 - All piano textbooks should be placed neatly on the side of the desk.

HCPS Grading Policy

Examples of Product, Process, and Practice		
PRODUCT (50%) <i>Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge</i>	PROCESS (30%) <i>Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes</i>	PRACTICE (20%) <i>Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills</i>
Does it measure how well students achieved specific learning goals, standards, and/or competencies?	Does it provide feedback to students regarding growth towards the attainment of specific learning goals, standards and competencies?	Does it allow students to practice skills and/or reinforce content learning?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily completed in presence of teacher • Rubric aligned to standards • Accuracy graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily completed in presence of teacher • Rubric aligned to standards • Accuracy graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graded for completion and participation

****Extra credit will not be given for non-academic purposes****

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class period. Missed class time will impact the overall quality of learning and be detrimental to the student's final product. Students are responsible for inquiring about, completing, and returning all work or material missed during class. It is not the teacher's responsibility to remind the student of missed work.

Absent Work Policy

All assignments should be submitted on time. Students will be given the number of class periods equal to the number of class periods absent to turn in completed make up assignments. If a student is lawfully absent, work will be accepted without penalty. If a student is unlawfully absent, work will be accepted with a penalty of one letter grade off the assessed value.

Late Work Policy

All assignments should be submitted on time. If a student submits an assignment late (past the due date) within the timeframe noted, the assignment will be accepted and will receive a letter grade penalty off the assessed value. Late work will only be accepted one class period after the due date.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for the quality and completion of one's own work. Academic dishonesty is taking someone else's work and claiming it as one's own. Students at Bel Air High School are responsible for knowing what is considered to be Academic Dishonesty and the subsequent consequences. More information can be found in the BAHS Student Planner.

In – Person Cell Phone Policy

Students will place their electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones, listening devices, smart watches, laptops, and iPads), either on silent or off, in a teacher designated area as they enter each classroom. Teachers will review with students the specific location for each room. The devices will remain in the teacher designated areas unless teachers explicitly tell students to use them as a part of classroom instruction.

- Devices will remain in the teacher designated area during bathroom visits.
- Devices will be retrieved from the teacher designated area at the end of the class at the direction of the teacher.
- School-appropriate cellphone use is permitted during class changes and lunch. Students are not permitted to make phone calls during school hours.
- Students will NOT be permitted to carry their electronic devices in a book bag throughout the school day.

If the electronic device policy is violated, the student shall then be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, confiscation of the device as well as an office referral.

Additional Information

Students who don't have access to a piano for home practice who feel the need for additional practice should see the teacher to schedule time in the Piano Lab before or after school.

BEGINNING PIANO - SYLLABUS CONTRACT
2021-2022

I, _____ understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures as stated in the Course Syllabus. I have read and understand the course requirements for the ensemble(s) in which I participate. I understand that I am responsible for any information listed in the Course Syllabus and that failure to comply may result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date