

Piano Class
Instructor: Ms. Rains
Room 207
Sacred Heart High School (2009-2010)

Required Text and Materials:

**John Thompson's Modern Course for the Piano First Grade (For Beginners)*

**Berklee Music Theory Book 1*

**Standard Bound Manuscript Paper*

Description:

This class is designed to teach students the basics of piano and music theory. Students will cover standard music notations, fundamental music theory, efficient practice methods, and a variety of musical styles played on the piano. Students will also be required to know how to play various scales and chords. Students will be expected to apply their theory knowledge to branch into song composition. Students will use Finale Music Notation and Composition software to create standard-style sheet music of their original compositions and arrangements.

As the students develop their playing capabilities, they will be encouraged to study styles of music that they might not otherwise choose to study. There will be an emphasis on correct hand position and articulation. These concepts will be applied during performance situations. Those students interested in college music study can see the instructor for general audition requirements.

Requirements:

- All students must attend, be prepared, and participate in class.
- All students are required to bring to class their texts and materials each day. Failure to do so will result in lowered participation grade.
- All assignments, work, and tests, must be completed.
- Students **MUST** tune their guitar immediately upon entering class. Failure to do so will result in lowered participation grade.
- Students **MUST** keep their keyboards stored in a case. Leaving a guitar out of its cases poses the potential for it to be broken.
- Students should plan to practice at a minimum, 15 minutes each day, 5 days a week. This practice time should be used constructively on repertoire the student is preparing for class. This means that if students do not have another keyboard or piano at home, they should bring their keyboard home each night.
- Student and parent **MUST** sign a weekly practice log.
- All students **MUST** participate in any scheduled performances. Performances count as **TWO** test grades.
- For the Final Project, students will be expected to select a pianist of their choosing, study their style of playing, and write a short essay about the musician. They will then give a 2-minute presentation about the pianist and perform a song by the pianist for the class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on your performance on written and playing quizzes, practice logs, demonstrated effort, and attendance.

Behavior:

All students are expected to show respect towards the teacher and fellow classmates. Any behavior that is contrary to the physical or mental well being of the students, teacher or the policies of Sacred Heart High School will by no means be tolerated.

Grading System:

Daily Participation, Daily Attendance, and Activity Participation: 50%
Proficiencies and Performance Exams: 50%