

LONG REACH HIGH SCHOOL
Department of the Fine Arts 2021-22

COURSE Piano I/Piano II

INSTRUCTOR Ms. June Pompei
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COURSE DESCRIPTION – PIANO I (from the HCPSS High School Course Catalog)

Students develop basic piano techniques through performing a variety of piano literature representing various styles and genres from difficulty levels I and II (on a scale of VI). Skills emphasized include (1) performing with independent parts for right and left hands, (2) note reading using traditional notation, and (3) utilizing current technology to assist in developing basic improvisational and compositional techniques. All students interested in learning piano may participate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION – PIANO II (from the HCPSS High School Course Catalog)

Students develop intermediate piano techniques through performing a variety of piano literature representing various styles and genres from difficulty levels III and IV. Skills emphasized include identifying and analyzing musical elements and structural characteristics of various styles and genres and utilizing current technology to assist in further development of improvisational and compositional techniques. After-school activities, such as recitals and performances, may be required, and grades may reflect such participation. The number of required non-school hour performances and practices during a school year may not exceed 5.

Materials

- Every student will be assigned a keyboard at a station in the Music Tech Lab for this course. It is highly recommended that students have a keyboard at home for practice.
- Metronome (or equivalent app)
- Sheet Music (provided electronically) and preferably printed out for class
- Journal (notebook) & Pencil

Grading – HCPSS Policy 8020

Summative Tasks - 70%

These assignments may include (but are not limited to):

- Synchronous Class Performance Demonstrations (Mus s2)
- Electronically Submitted Singing Tests (Mus s3)
- Music Theory Knowledge Test/Quizzes

Short-Term Assignments - 30%

These assignments may include (but are not limited to):

- Asynchronous Electronic Worksheets (Mus s1, Mus s5)
- Synchronous and Asynchronous Class Discussions (Mus s4)
- Asynchronous Practice Logs (Mus s1)

The “Summative Tasks” and “Short-Term Assignments” correlate and work in conjunction with the HCPSS Music Grading Standards (i.e. Mus s1, etc.)

Digital Tools embedded in CANVAS which may be used to deliver instruction: Soundtrap, Soundcheck, and Noteflight. Supplementary tools will be listed on Home Page in Canvas.

HCPSS Music Grading Standards

- Mus s1: Creativity & Composition
 - Students will complete composition assignments to further their understanding of music theory and creative processes.
- Mus s2: Musicianship
 - Students will complete assignments that explore musical works performed in the class to further their understanding of performance practice.
 - Assignments will include listening to personal, ensemble, and professional recordings and researching musical works to understand cultural and historical context.
- Mus s3: Applied Skills & Technical Development
 - Every student will receive graded performance assessments and skills tests throughout the year. These tests are video and/or audio recorded.
- Mus s4: Procedures & Practices
 - Students are not just learning to perform on their instruments, but they are also learning to conduct themselves in a large ensemble rehearsal. This class will put the student in the role of a professional instrumental musician. As such, you will be asked to show your understanding of rehearsal and performance behavior. Students are observed and assessed on their instrumental performance and rehearsal conduct on a daily basis.
- Mus s5: Reflection
 - Students will receive written reflection assignments over the course of the year. Students will evaluate their performances and performances by other groups in the following categories: tone, technique, intonation, musicality, balance, interpretation, musical effect, and other factors.

Daily Classroom/Rehearsal Expectations:

As we return to a more normal in-class instruction, some of the technology we learned during the pandemic will be incorporated into this course. Students are not just learning how to play piano, but they will also be learning how to use technology more effectively to learn music theory and assess their performance. This class will help to develop musical skills so the student will have a greater appreciation for the arts as well as will becoming a more accomplished musician. Students are observed and assessed on their performance and daily conduct daily.

- When you enter the music tech lab, immediately turn on your piano and computer.
- Begin on your piano warm-ups (scales, chords, arpeggios, finger exercises, etc)
- Complete your opening theory exercise.
- Practice your best and actively participate in class. Always.
- Cell phones should be put away during class (unless I ask you to use them in class).
- When the teacher is in front of you, be attentive. Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Be always respectful. Condescending or derogatory comments towards anyone will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in disciplinary action. This classroom is a safe zone for all.