

Foothill High School

Piano

Mr. Mitchell Bahr
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About the Course

This class is offered in order to fulfill the A-G Fine Arts Requirement for graduation. Piano is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills. Time in class will primarily be spent both on the pianos; although there will be time allotted for projects. While playing, students will be working both individually and in small groups in order to master the techniques of playing. Time will also be spent in group instruction on a wide variety of basic music elements and concepts.

Grades

Standard Grading Scale: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 0-59 F

- **PERFORMANCE/RECITALS (60%)** – At the end Units and Grading periods, students will be tested to measure proficiency on their instrument. These tests are performance tests played individually in front of the class. Don't worry; they will start off easy! A few times a quarter, the tests are duets/trios, and sometimes they are written exams.
- **ASSIGNMENTS (30%)** – These will be centered on vocabulary, listening and article reviews.
- **PARTICIPATION (10%)** - This portion of the grade deal with the rules. Violation of these rules, or a collection of tardies, will result in a lowering of the grade.

<p>Be in the room when the bell rings. No food, drinks, or candy (GUM!), water is the exception. Neatly put away all supplies at the end of every class. No playing the piano while instructor is speaking. This matters. Respect for the equipment, instructor and others. At all times.</p>
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Class Materials

The following are items that each student needs. The items do not have to go back and forth every day, as there is room to store them next to the piano in the classroom. Please make an effort to acquire these:

1. **BINDER** (get a big one, and least 1 inch) – Several times a quarter you will receive a large supplementary packet that we use as a textbook. These packets will contain songs, theory sheets, technical exercises, etc.
2. **Headphones** – These are important for you to have, as time will be given nearly every day to practice individually on your own.

A Few More Important Items...

1. This course is a Dual Enrollment Course through Shasta College! Meaning, at the end of the year, students who pass the course will receive college credit for Beginning Piano AND Intermediate Piano. Much of education is heading this way, and this course offers an excellent opportunity to earn high school and collegiate credits simultaneously. The Dual Enrollment Course is done through Shasta College, and we will work through the registration process soon. Students do not have to choose to participate in this, but I encourage all students and families to take advantage of the unique benefit of Piano at Foothill High School.
2. Care of the pianos is a priority. The pianos should be treated with care and from a place of maturity at all times. They are not desks, tables or something to lean/rest on. Furthermore, while they are fun, they are not toys. Any inappropriate treatment of the pianos will not be tolerated. Should there be damage to a piano caused by gross student negligence or blatant attempt to damage the instrument, the cost of repair will be passed along to the family.
3. The Piano Library – I am proud of the vast array of supplemental resources that we can provide the student. From classical music to video games, from movie soundtracks to jazz, from television themes to popular songs throughout the decades...we have it all! Often, students are encouraged to go to the library, in order to grab a piece of sheet music...and practice reading (imagine that!). After all, the more you read, the better you get at reading. Care for the library resources (including a neighborhood watch program of sorts – to ensure that books are...permanently borrowed...is imperative. We want to keep this library freely accessible to all students for years to come. As such, books are not to leave Room 204 for any reason. Should a student want a particular song for their own practice, for educational purposes only – and the practice of the music at home, I am allowed to make one copy of the song.
4. The act of becoming a musician is a discipline. I believe that music opens the mind and enhances creativity. These products of discipline do not happen overnight. It is important to practice concepts with patience, knowing beforehand that the skill of being a musician takes time. Therefore, students must be patient with themselves, with the person sitting next to them, and with the learning process as a whole. Respect matters.
5. As I already alluded to, concepts taught to the class will be learned at many different paces. Some students will catch on immediately, while others will take weeks to learn the same skill. Some students are complete beginners, others have played for years. This will be evident in our tests (therefore I do not/cannot grade everyone with the same standard). So, players with experience must display empathy by through being helpful and accommodating while we learn rudimentary skills. By the way, even in learning these basic skills, there will be helpful little tips even the most seasoned veteran will pick up along the way to help with technique.

Thank you,

Mitch Bahr

Due Friday – 8/18/23

I have read the Piano Syllabus. I am aware of the policies regarding classroom rules, grades, and materials required.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent of (student's name): _____