

Course Syllabus  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade General Music with Technology**  
Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Williamson

### **A. Course Description**

**General Music and Technology (Grade 8)** General music is an elaboration on the fundamental musical elements taught at the elementary and intermediate levels with an emphasis on the continued development of perceptive listening skills. The purpose of this course is to broaden the students' musical background, enabling them to become more knowledgeable consumers, utilizing traditional and modern technological resources. Throughout the school year, students enrolled in the General Music and Technology course will use technology in application for music education. Notating, composing, sequencing, editing music on a computer, performing on rhythmic and melodic instruments, and playing keyboard at a beginner level are some of the skills that will be included in the coursework. Ideally, students enrolled and successfully completing this course will have a wider musical background and be more knowledgeable music consumers through the experiences provided through this course.

### **B. Course Topics and Unit Essential Questions**

Course and Computer Orientation What does it take to be successful in this class?

Explain the differences in using a Mac computer.

Notation and Composition How does basic music notation assist in composing music?

Keyboarding How do basic keyboard skills aid in piano performance?

Sequencing, Recording, and Songwriting How can GarageBand encourage a young songwriter?

Musicals and Film Scoring How is a musical different than a movie with music?

### **C. Activities and Weighting:**

Graded activities are assigned throughout the learning process, and will include a combination of the following types of activities each marking period.

Classwork/Homework 10-50 Points per assignment

Participation and execution of in class, and only occasionally out of class, assignments. May include MusicAce computer guided session and games, in-class musical performances, homework assignments, etc.

Quizzes/Playing Tests 50-100 Points per assignment

Participation and execution of formal assessments, taken through either traditional or technological methods. May include computer-based quizzes, keyboard playing tests, etc.

Projects 50-100 Points per assignment

Participation and execution of individual, partner, or small group creative tasks. May include notating music, composing music, recording music, etc.

Daily Journals 50 Points per marking period

Participation and execution of individual reflective and listening journals. Journals are cumulative, and must be kept throughout the school year.

## **D. Student Absence and Late Work**

It is your responsibility to ask for any assignments or papers you may have missed. If you are absent on the day a graded activity is due, you will be expected to turn in that assignment on the first time you return to class. Any incomplete assignments will automatically become zeros. Late work may receive a deduction in grade depending upon circumstances of its lateness, and must be turned in before the end of the marking period.

## **E. Classroom Expectations (GMMS School-Wide Expectations)**

### **1. Be There, Be Ready**

Enter classroom on time

Have all necessary materials (Music Notebook and a Pencil)

Follow beginning of class procedures (Daily Music Journal)

S.L.A.N.T. (Sit Up, Lean Forward, Ask Questions, Nod Yes or No, Talk with Teachers)

### **2. Follow Directions**

Raise your hand to speak and wait to be called upon before speaking

Stay in your assigned seat or area

Ask for help if directions are unclear

### **3. Be Respectful**

Be kind and considerate to all people and property

Use appropriate language

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself

### **4. Be Responsible**

Complete work to the best of your ability and on time

Keep the classroom clean and orderly

Adhere to the school dress code

## **F. Behavior Consequences (Process may change depending on infraction)**

- 1) Warning
- 2) Warning – Student/Teacher Conference
- 3) Warning – Student/Teacher Conference – Telephone Parents
- 4) After School Detention – Notification Letter to Parents – Telephone Parents
- 5) Office Referral

## **G. Suggestions for Success**

For most students, music class will not be a “difficult” course. Activities like listening to music of different styles, writing, discussing, and learning about music and its’ parts, creating music, through playing keyboard, recording, and clicking in sound loops are not difficult, but you must be able to pay attention to directions, take advice, ask for help when you need it, and manage your project time wisely. It is not uncommon for students who think they are “B” or “C” students to earn a higher grade in this hands-on, creative environment. Just do not be afraid to try in this class (even if music is not your thing), and most importantly, have fun – this class may prove to be one of your favorite classes this year.