

Katie Houston
HHS Choirs and Piano
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Beginning Piano

Course Objectives:

Beginning piano students will:

- Learn how to read, write, and play treble and bass clef notes
- Learn to read, write, and play rhythms in simple time signatures.
- Strengthen fingers and musical understanding through learning selected major and minor scales and chord progressions
- Practice memorizing and performing piano pieces
- Learn about the history of piano

Course Materials:

- All students need a piano or keyboard to practice on at home. Students may check out a keyboard free of charge at the beginning of the year. If the keyboard is damaged or lost, it will result in a \$150 fine.
- Piano books for in-class work will be provided in class. These books can be purchased at the end of the year for \$10.
- If students are interested in learning music of their choice (which I encourage!), they are responsible to provide it through legal means (purchase in a music store or online). Please do not bring photocopies or other illegal copies. There are many websites where sheet music can be legally purchased and printed online.

Term Grading Scale (numbers may vary slightly):

- Participation: 200 pts. (10 pts. per class period)
 - At-home Practice: 100 pts. (10 pts per week)
 - Playing Tests: 100 pts. (20 pts. per test)
 - Written Quizzes: 100 pts. (20 pts. per test)
- 500 pts. total**

Description of Assignments:

- **Participation:** Students are given 10 pts. every class period for being on time and doing their work. If a student is tardy, he/she loses 5 points. If a student cannot work independently during

Class Rules:

1. Be on time.
2. If your phone is out, I will take it.
3. Put headphones away and push bench in when finished.
4. No food or drink in the piano lab.
Respect teacher, each other, and classroom materials.

in-class practice time, he/she will lose points. If a student is absent, he/she will lose all participation points unless the absence is excused through the attendance office.

- **At-home Practice:** Students will record their weekly practice on CHARMS. To record practice, log in and click on "Practice Logs." Record the title of the song or scale you practiced and how many minutes you worked (skip the part that says "tempo"). You are expected to practice one hour a week, which can be divided up however you want. For example, you can practice ten minutes a day for six days or sixty minutes a day for one day. I do random email checks to parents to confirm that practice logs are being honestly recorded.
- **Playing Tests:** Every other week, students will be responsible to pass off a song (or a designated portion of the song, depending on the difficulty of the piece). Sometimes memorization will be required; sometimes it will be extra credit. Students will prepare for these quizzes during personal practice in class and at home.
- **Written Quizzes:** Every other week, students will be given a written quiz on theory concepts we have been studying in class.

Hall Passes

- Students will be given 3 hall passes per term that may be used for the restroom, getting a drink, or a trip to a locker. Any unused hall passes at the end of the term can be turned in for 5 points extra credit each.

Charms

The band department and I will be using the CHARMS program online to communicate with students and parents. On charms, both parents and students will be able to see an updated calendar of all our choir events, sign up to help with our various fundraisers throughout the year, get missing assignments, and communicate with me as needed.

Students, please follow the 8 steps below to update the CHARMS information. **This is how you will receive your 10 points** for the disclosure document assignment. If you do not have computer access at home, please do this at school. If parents do not have email access, students are responsible to please let me know immediately so we can arrange an alternate way for them to receive communication.

As of now, passwords for each student are the student's ID number. This account is shared between the student and his/her parents in order to make sure parents, students, and directors are on the same page. Parents, make sure you know your student's ID number. The password may be changed if desired, but please make sure both student and parent know what it is.

1. Go to www.charmsoffice.com
2. Click Enter
3. Under Parents/Students/Members type school code: **HighlandMusic**
4. In Student Area Password box type password (your school ID number).
5. Click on Update Info Tab
6. Fill out all information, **especially an email address.** Don't worry about lockers.
7. Add at least one adult's information **including an email address.** This is very important!
8. Click update