

Beginning Piano (53.0941001-1)
Course Syllabus
Mr. Mike Walsh –Instructor

Instructor: Mr. Mike Walsh
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REQUIRED TEXT:

Alfred's Basic Adult All-In-One Course Level 1 Piano Book (Palmer, Manus, Lethco)

Please pay attention to the exact title; many have purchased the wrong book by similar names, by mistake.

You must purchase the interactive book version as an Apple eBook (\$16.99) and downloaded it through iTunes so it can be accessed on your piano lab Apple iMac computer (and any other Apple device you may own). **You must have or create an iTunes account to purchase the eBook.** The iBook version is “interactive” and includes pop-up menus, quizzes, accompaniments on demand, and ability to take notes on individual pages.

INSTRUMENT:

Each student seat in our lab has a state-of-the-art Korg Krome weighted 88-key keyboard workstations, connected to an audio communications system that allows for private practice via provided headsets. In addition, students have on-demand communications direct with the instructor via this same communications system, which allows for seamless practice, observation and instruction

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a beginning music course for students with little or no formal training on piano. Music fundamentals covering basic theory, notation, and rhythm will be covered. The main focus of the class will of course be - learning to play the piano!

GOALS:

1. The student will be able to play piano.
2. The student will be able to identify the fundamentals of music through piano performance.
3. The student will apply music theory and piano fundamentals to musical performance.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:

No musical experience is required to participate in this class – only a desire to learn how to play! Students will be expected to complete piano performance tests (proficiencies) on their piano. In addition, students will complete periodic worksheets.

Materials:

- Correct eBook version of Piano text (see info under required text)

FEES: A \$20 seat fee per semester to help offset software updates and equipment / repair, payable online.

1. Go to the Alpharetta High School homepage: <http://school.fultonschools.org/hs/alpharetta/Pages/default.aspx/>
2. Scroll down near the bottom of the page and click on the OSP (Online School Payment) icon:



3. Select “High”
4. Select “Alpharetta High School”
5. Select “item choose to purchase” – **Beginning Piano**

You can email your instructor at walsh@fultonschools.org with questions.

EVALUATION:

Grades will be assigned / weighted as follows:

55% for Major Summative assignments, which include the following: Unit summative performances, Unit summative written assessments

35 % for Minor Formative assignments, which may include Performance checkpoints (simple 1-2 line playing assignments), multiple choice and written quizzes

10% for Practice assignments, which may include daily skills practice and basic skills checkpoints

Provision for Improving Grades

There is opportunity to allow students to recover a low summative grade (below 75). You will get one attempt, and you must do the retake prior to the next summative assignment of the same kind . Should you score lower than your original grade, the original grade will stick.

Missing / Late Work

Since piano is skills-based, students will work at their own pace *on each unit*, with work due by end of each unit. Students will have until end of semester to complete any missing assignments that you were present for. Students can work ahead if they are able (move-on-when-ready)

Point reductions:

There will be a 10% reduction from the graded score on missing work due to absence, or present but missing work that is due by end of unit. Assignments missing after the end of a unit will receive an "M" but be accepted until end of semester, with a 15% reduction from the graded score.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:

- A. Keep fingernails manicured to appropriate length as to not interfere with good technique on the piano.
- B. Students will log into desktop computer daily.
 - a. Assignments will be 95% paperless; access to OneNote, TEAMS, Flipgrid and iBook are critical to success.
- C. IF you are doing remote learning you will be turning in assignments via Flipgrid; Mr. Walsh will cover in detail

Scope and Sequence (which will be paced according to experience level):

Unit 1: Posture, finger warmups, finger numbers, The Piano Keyboard, The Musical Alphabet, basic C-position, Intro to right-hand / left-hand work, intro to reading music notation

Unit 2: Grand Staff / Clefs, Time Signatures, intro to chords

Unit 3: G-position; 8th notes, the I chord, the IV chord

Unit 4: Accidentals, G Major 5 Finger Position, I, IV, V7 chords in G major

Unit 5: F Major Five finger position, I, IV, V7 in F Major, transposition, D.C. al fine, dotted rhythms

Unit 6: Staccato, 1st and 2nd endings, blocked and broken chords, Dynamics, ritardandos, accents

Unit 7: Half steps and whole steps, C Major Scale, Scale preparation drills, Scale melodies, common and cut time.

Unit 8: G Major Scale, shifting hand position, 6/8 time signature

Unit 9: F Major Scale, The order of sharps, Sharp key signatures, G Major, F Major, A Minor, D Minor.

Lessons will be planned and designed using the Following MENC Standards which have been adopted by Fulton County and the State of Georgia as the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for all Music classes.

Recognized National Standards

National Association of Music Education (NAfME) Content Standards

- 2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- 3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- 5. Reading and notating music.
- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- 7. Evaluating music and music performances.
- 8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
- 9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

RECOVERY:

- All students will have **one (1) attempt** to redo/retake MAJOR formative/summative assignments for improvement; eligibility for these retakes is for students earning a 75 or below. The highest grade would then be a 75. Should you earn lower than your original grade, the original grade would stick
- For summative assignments, student retakes must be completed before the next summative assignment is given - or 5 school days before the end of the marking period "IF" there is not another summative assessment given

RISE SCHEDULE

Mondays - 7:50-8:15AM / 3:25-3:50PM, *by appointment only*

HONOR CODE:

In an effort to encourage good study habits, fair competition, and positive development in the area of academics, the Alpharetta faculty supports a strong policy for academic honesty. Student assignments turned in for grading should be the sole work of that individual student. **To prevent cheating, including plagiarism, students may not collaborate with other students or adults on their assignments unless the teacher has given explicit permission to do so.** This includes the giving or receiving of information in any manner, including electronically. In situations where collaboration is allowed, the teacher will clearly define what level of collaboration is appropriate. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for two students to submit identical work, unless the assignment included a group component that makes it permissible. Students are encouraged to consult with their teacher regarding what level of collaboration is acceptable prior to completing an assignment.