

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.

If you will be in the classroom (F2F) then 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 computer (and any other Apple device you may own). **You must have or create an iTunes account to purchase the eBook.** The eBook version is “*interactive*” and includes pop-up menus, quizzes, accompaniments on demand, and ability to take notes on individual pages.

If you will be *remote learning only* and choose to purchase the hard-copy of the text, you may or may not get the advantage of the interactivity. The book comes in a couple different forms from Amazon – as a kindle book version, and as the actual hard-copy version with DVD. ***The eBook Interactive version is the preferred version for this class.***

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. **If you must be at home (remote learning) you will need to own either a real piano or an electronic keyboard with at least 49 keys.** The keyboards in the lab are hard-wired in and not portable.

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
- (remote learners only) – a Piano or electric keyboard (minimum 49-key) with external speakers

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:

65% for Summative** assignments which include the following: skill proficiencies (checkpoints), recitals (played on piano), and all written or electronic assessments (quizzes or tests);

15 % for Formative assignments, which may include written worksheets or specified playing assignments;

20% final exam* (which can be exempted IF you complete all summative assignments with an overall summative grade of 70% or above).

*If you complete 100% of your summative assignments you will exempt the semester final. However, you also must complete 80% of all summative to qualify to take the final - and NOT earn an "incomplete" in the course.

****BONUS POINTS** – if you get ALL of the formative assignments completed, you will earn 10 bonus points towards your lowest summative grade!

Provision for Improving Grades

There is opportunity to allow students to recover a low summative grade (below 79). You will get one attempt, and you must do the retake prior to the next summative assignment of the same kind – or 5 days prior to the end of the grading period if there was not another summative assignment given. Students must contact the teacher to request recovery.

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 formative/summative assignments for improvement; eligibility for these retakes is for students earning a 79 or below
- 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 (teachers can make exceptions for students who have excused absences during this 5-day window)

INCOMPLETES:

- FCS will adopt a "no zero" policy for the remainder of the 20-21 school year (ie. semester 2); students with missing assignments will be given an incomplete (i)
- Students not completing 80% of their summative assignments will earn an incomplete for that marking period
- ALL incomplete grades for credit-bearing courses must be resolved by the end of summer school 2021, or those grades will convert to a withdrawal failure (WF). *FCS has not outlined procedures for this same scenario for non-credit bearing courses.*

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.

RISE SCHEDULE

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