**Weaver Academy**

**Class piano**

**Fall – 2018**

**Course Description:** to develop basic piano skills in the context of well-rounded musicianship. Basic piano skills will give you the ability to “read” (translate) written music by interpreting notes, rhythms and musical markings into music. Focus is on reading and not performance.

**Teacher office hours:** Mr. Ingle will be available for appointments or tutoring during regularly scheduled office hours.

Mondays: Lunch

Wednesdays: Lunch

**Procedure:** As each student arrives in the classroom, class outline will be on the board and materials far the day’s lesson will be on the bookshelves for you to pick up. Each class begins with a warm up exercise. A group lesson follows, then time for independent practice of new concepts in preparation for Playing Tests. Lesson Time follows. This is an open format for discussing/pondering a wide array of musical topics and for listening/discussing live and recorded performances. Ensemble assignments then complete a typical day.

**Friday Playing Test** generally consist of the student performing 2 pieces for the teacher via headphones. These pieces will have been selected from previously assigned music. Grading this work is done by assessing the following: STEADY PULSE, posture, technique, note accuracy, rhythm accuracy, dynamics, articulation, pedaling and music form accuracy.

**Ensemble** work consists of pieces involving multiple keyboards. 2,3 and4 part challenge students to make music with others. The overall success of the ‘ensemble” is the guide to assessing; that includes STEADY PULSE, posture, technique, note accuracy, rhythm accuracy, dynamics, articulation, pedaling and music form accuracy.

**Homework:** All hands-on piano assignments (from textbooks or ensemble pieces) are designed to be accomplished in-class. **NO PIANO PRACTICE AT HOME IS REQUIRED.** All textbooks, ensemble pieces and handouts are to remain in classroom, however, students may “check out” materials overnight by sign up. Practice room pianos and keyboards in classroom are available before school, during lunch (with permission slip from teacher) and afterschool. Check with Mr. Ingle to make to make sure of practice room and classroom availability.

**Make up work** is student’s responsibility to sign up on my door for outside of class time playing tests. All make-up work is due on or before each nine weeks.

**Attendance:**

Students are limited to 3 absences (excused or unexcused) per nine weeks. Any absence beyond three will require make up time. Students MUST make up work missed AND 45 minutes of time per **absence per class** for all absences, lawful or unlawful, over three during a nine week grading period.

Students MUST complete one of the following to make up time:

1. 45 minutes in class with the teacher before or after school
2. 45 minutes at WISE PM on Wednesdays in the Media Center from 4:00-5:30. This program will begin the week of the first Interim Report,
3. Students with extenuating circumstances should approach their teacher to devise a plan with input from their parent/guardian and administrator to make up their time.

Completion of this requirement will result in the removal of No Credit (NC)/59/F Status and the student will receive their earned grade.

**Arrangements for make-up time must be made within three (3) days of return to school.** Students must have **fulfilled make-up time requirements within the interim reporting period during which the absences occur.**

**Class rules:**

* **Bring to class daily:**
* **positive attitude** for good community atmosphere
* **open mind** for new ideas
* **strong work ethic** for striving to complete all assignments with excellence.
* **Keep aisles clear.** For safety, place bookbags, purses, jacket etc under keyboard.
* **Read assignments board daily.** Get started when you enter class.
* **Operate keyboards gently.** Gently, pull cords at jack end, push any and all buttons and keys. Gently, remove and replace headphones from their hook. Gently, adjust headphones. Take ownership so they will last a long time.
* **Be on time to class.** Changing classes is also the time for using the restroom.
  + 4th tarty in nine weeks results in disciplinary action from administration.
* **Be prepared daily with materials:** Books and materials housed in cabinet. NEVER EVER WRITE IN TEXTBOOKS!
* **Emergency restroom use during class will be permitted.** Wave hall pass at teacher for permission and make sure you get affirmative response before leaving classroom.
* **Eating and drinking are allowed on “Froint porch” area ONLY at times of individual practicing.** All containers for drinks—weather full or empty—are to be kept in bookbags upon entering classroom. Electronic keyboards and liquids do not mix!
* **Short trimmed fingernails only!** Having long fingernails that compromise your hand and finger position as pictured on p. 5 of textbook “piano 101,” will lower any Playing test grade (Friday, Ensemble, Midterm, Exam) by a letter for each grade they are too long.
* **Hands clean and dry only!** NO lotion on hands. Since the keys are plastic and do not absorb lotion, it only makes the keys “slimy” for the next person.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

Playing tests – 70%

Ensemble – 20%

Midterm – 10%

**Semester Exam:** 20% of semester grade (May include, but not limited to “playing test” and written exam) (40% nine weeks + 40% nine weeks + 20% Semester Exam=Semester Grade)

**HONOR CODE:** Weaver students are expected to demonstrate exceptional character. As a reminder about the importance of integrity, students must agree to abide by our code of honor: *I will abide by the Weaver Honor Code. I will not give or receive unpermitted assistance in the preparation of any work or assessment that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading.*