

# Johnson Senior High School PIANO Syllabus 2014-2015

**Instructor:** Mrs. Westcott    **Email:** [Theresa.westcott@spps.org](mailto:Theresa.westcott@spps.org) or [Theresa.westcott@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.westcott@gmail.com)

## Course Description/Class Content:

Students are given instruction in the elements, techniques and procedures of playing the piano. While learning piano playing skills, they will acquire knowledge of note reading. Students will learn to play five-finger patterns in all 12 major keys on the piano, while more advanced players will learn to play scales and arpeggios. Through participation in recitals, as well as attending concerts or engaging in classroom listening activities, students will begin to develop a critical ear of artistic performance.

## Course Goals: Students will...

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the foundational elements of music, including:  
melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tone, texture, form, vocabulary, style, and technique.
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge and use of the technical skills of music, while integrating technology.
- 3) Rehearse technical warm-ups, while demonstrating an understanding of music theory concepts.
- 4) Improvise and/or arrange/compose at least one piece for a piano or keyboard instrument.
- 5) Rehearse and perform music from a variety of contexts and styles, alone or within small or large groups.
- 6) Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a musical work or performance.

## Course Texts/Materials:

Materials provided by the instructor include: piano method books, music flashcards, piano keyboards, headphones, electronic adaptors, charts, rhythm books, music theory and music history worksheets. Students are highly encouraged to incorporate their I-pads to explore music theory and as an aid in recital performance and composition activities on their keyboards. Cell phone use is prohibited during class.

## Grading/Evaluation/Assessment:

Grading is based upon students' progress toward the standards using the following curve:

A+ = 100%, A = 95%, A- = 90%, B+ = 85%, B = 80%, B- = 75%, C+ = 70%, C = 65%, C- = 60%,  
D+ = 55%, D = 50%, D- = 45%, N (no credit) = Less than 45%.

The mid-term and final grades will be calculated by determining the total percentage points earned in each of these four categories (25% possible for each category): **Daily Participation, Lesson Performance, Tests, and Skill Development** (piano technique, ear-training, rhythmic accuracy, and note-reading).

## Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend piano class **every** day. **Unexcused** absences will affect the **participation** grade. If you must be absent due to illness or for any legitimate reason, be sure to provide a written note from home so that the office staff records the absence as "**excused**." The most successful students in this class are those who are: **On Time, On Task, and In Tune** (with what we are working on)!

## Assignment #1 - Due by Friday, September 5, 2015:

Review this syllabus, sign it, have a parent/guardian sign it, and return it to Mrs. Westcott for 10 points.

Student Name (**Printed**) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_