

NSAA Piano Studies

Middle School 1 (4th Hour)

Instructor: Mr. Crego

e-mail: mcrego@aznsa.com

Piano lab time: by appointment

Room: Keyboarding Room

Description: This piano class will strengthen your knowledge of the piano and add to your knowledge of music. Using keyboards, you will learn practice techniques and piano skills. You will not only learn basic skills and techniques, but you will also learn how to perform various pieces of music!

Objective: Throughout the year the course will focus on technique, performance techniques, music notation, and some music history. Students will be expected to sight-read and memorize pieces and apply music theory and technique. All students are expected to perform and participate and keep a practice log. Sight-reading and ear training will be a component of this class as well. The scope and sequence are available for review at the front office.

Materials for this class: Pencils, Binder, Notebook, Headphones. This course is predominantly a performance-based course; students are expected to practice at least 5 days out of the week for 45 minutes, record the practice time and have minimal absences and maximum commitment. Students are expected to complete all daily activities, weekly playing exams, and semester performances in the theater for your friends and family to enjoy. Mr. Crego is available by appointment to offer additional help or practice time on the keyboards. Mr. Crego may need to touch the student's arms, wrists, and hands to ensure the positioning of them is correct for technique. **No watches or bracelets may be worn during class.**

The course will include Technique, Sight-reading/theory, Homework and notes, Tests/quizzes (written as well as playing tests), Performance/critique, and Participation.

Students will be graded on the following:

- Assignments: both playing and written work will have deadlines that must be met
- All performances are graded
- Participation in class is required and graded
- Practice logs/Practice is expected daily and will be assigned AT LEAST one lunchtime
- Practice on the grand piano per month.

Attendance - Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the class begins! Each tardy or unprepared class will cost the student academic points and negatively influence their grade. Additionally, if a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is their responsibility to inform the teacher before the absence(s) and arrange a make-up or alternative work. **Any student who accumulates three or more tardies or unexcused absences in the same class in one month will be required to recover instructional minutes on the last Saturday of each month. Saturday attendance will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Failure to attend Saturday recovery hours may result in a schedule change.**

Tardiness – It is disruptive and disrespectful for a student to enter the classroom late. The student will lose their participation points for arriving late.

Homework – Late assignments will not be accepted, students with an excused absence will have one day for every excused absence to turn in work.

Extra Credit – There will be no extra credit.

Participation – Participation is required, students will lose these points for absences, behavior, and lack of participation and will result in ultimately not learning the skill of playing the piano, learning the music knowledge and fail the course.

Performances: Performances are a significant part of the course, and required by all students in order to master the performance and piano skill as well as pass the course. For performances, the student must wear a white top and black bottoms. No tennis shoes, flip flops, or jeans for performance wear. All dresses worn must be to the shins while seated, if this is an issue wear black dress pants. All students must follow the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct for Dress and Appearance and behavior. Students unable to perform because of academic probation must attend as a member of the audience and be helpful and supportive of others and must complete a written reflection and a critique of the performance. If you are absent the day of the show, you will not perform, but you must attend if possible and complete the written critique, and provide a doctor's note for illness.

Classroom rules:

- No food, drink (water is o.k.), candy or gum is allowed in the classroom.
- **All electronic devices must be turned off and stored in your backpacks, out of sight.** Students will use headphones during class, and any use of the cell phone or iPods are distracting and not permitted and will be confiscated and give to the Dean.
- No talking during instruction or while a peer is talking.
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Be respectful of your peers and instructors.
- No swearing will be tolerated, this is disrespectful of others.
- Follow directions.
- No students are permitted to retrieve or go to their cars during school hours.
- Insubordination will result in a referral to the Dean and possible removal from the course.
- Students are permitted to use the restroom with permission, after the instruction is completed, and only one student may leave the class at a time.
- **No photos, videos, recordings may be taken unless written approval by the teacher.**

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to clearly identify their own work as well as, the words and ideas of other individuals. Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of the code of conduct. If there is an incident of academic dishonesty a zero will be given and the student will receive 5 days of detention. If there is a second offense an F will be given for the course for the semester grade.

Semester Grading

Each quarter grade counts as 40% and the final is 20 %.

Grading Calculations (not including final exam grades)

Performances and Rehearsals (both in class and concerts) 30%

Quizzes 15%

Homework/Practice Logs 25%

Class participation 30%

Mandatory Performance Dates:

First Piano Concert

November 4th tech rehearsal from 4:00pm-6:00 pm

November 5th SHOW!!! (Students must be here at 5:00 p.m. for warm-up. **6:00 p.m. showtime**)

Second Piano Concert

March 30th Tech rehearsal from 4:00pm-6:00pm

March 31st SHOW!!! (Students must be here at 5:00 p.m. for warm-up. **6:00 p.m. showtime**)

Requirements for All Performing Arts Students

- All students who are currently enrolled in a performance class **MUST** attend the meeting on TBD with their parent or guardian. The meeting will be held in the NSAA theatre.
- All students who are currently enrolled in a performing arts class will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances for that class. Final grades and performance grades are given and are crucial to being successful in any performing arts class.
- Rehearsals and performance schedules are given on the syllabus for the class at the beginning of the year. Any conflicts or concerns must be voiced by the last school day in September 2019
- Students must attend all rehearsals. Tardiness to a show will result in a deduction of points or possibly being pulled from the show and not allowed to perform.
- Any student not allowed to perform for any reason, including academic probation, will still be **REQUIRED** to attend all performances and assist the Director as needed.
- Any absence from a rehearsal or a show due to illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note.
- Any student who is absent on the day of a performance will not be allowed to perform, but still must attend the performance (as stated earlier).
- Any student who is disruptive or disrespectful during performances or rehearsals may be asked to leave and might risk being pulled from the performance, but again they would still be required to attend.
- Any student on academic probation may **NOT** perform.
- Any student who is not dressed properly on stage will receive a deduction in points for their grade and could possibly be pulled from the show.
- Students and parents are responsible for checking the online calendar (www.aznsaa.com) for rehearsal and performance times.
- Appropriate dress for performances will be up to each individual instructor and will depend on the needs of the class.
- For music performances all students are expected to wear the following:
 - Black button-down shirt, black slacks, black dress shoes.
 - Black dress pants and a black dress shirt with black dress shoes **OR** a black dress with black dress shoes.
 - Any financial concerns need to be discussed privately with the instructor during office hours.

Juries and AzMerit Testing

Students in all NSAA performing arts courses will participate in Juries. This will take place in December and May and the AZMerit Exam (with the exception of seniors) sometime in April 2020. Students must attend these days and will lose participation points for any absences. Test data is instrumental in being able to refine course work and effectively plan for the future. *Take note: This test data is often used for college entrance and scholarships; students should take the exams seriously and perform to their best ability.*

NSAA Non-Discrimination Policy

NSAA provides an academic and social environment that is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by law. NSAA seeks to promote a safe environment in which community members are free to express themselves without fear of recrimination.

Students with Accommodations and/or Modifications

To ensure and support the intellectual and artistic richness in our education community, NSAA is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment by providing equal access to students with disabilities. Accommodations pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and modifications to support students who meet the requirements for Exceptional Student Services will be honored as directed by federal and state law.

Field Trips

Field trips are valuable learning experiences and not just “free” days. Each field trip will include a related assignment and students who are absent from a field trip must submit an alternate assignment as requested by the teacher. Signed permission releases will be sent home at least one week prior to the trip. Students are expected to behave in accordance with NSAA in school rules and expectations.

School and Classroom Policies

Bathroom and Hall Passes will be based upon a one student at a time sign out policy. Students must sign out on the clipboard provided with their name, leaving and returning times. Students are expected to be gone no more than four minutes to provide the opportunity for other students to use the facilities. Students who abuse the time limit will lose their pass privilege.

Remind

We will be using the Remind App for text messages in this class. Both parents and students will receive reminders for homework, assignment due dates, and tests or quizzes. Students or parents who do not want to participate must sign a waiver that they will not be participating in the Remind program. The Remind App is free and only requires a cell phone number. The Remind app will replace the weekly email reminders that we have used in prior years.

All school policies regarding food, drink, electronic devices, plagiarism and other topics will be strictly enforced. Usage of any other electronic equipment is not allowed without the direction and consent of the teacher. No photos, video, recordings may be taken unless written approval by the teacher and the Executive Dean.

Students are expected to have read the NSAA Student Handbook and follow the school rules and expectations stated in that document. Students and parents must sign and return the Social Contract attached. **This will count as a 10 point homework assignment and is due by Wednesday, August 14.**



Sign up for important updates from Mr. Crego.

Get information for New School For The Arts right on your phone—not on handouts.

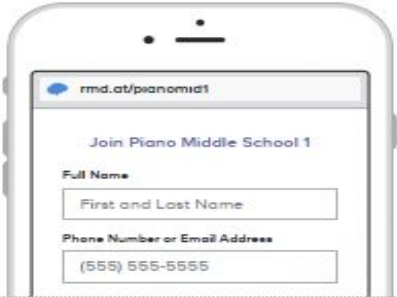
Pick a way to receive messages for Piano Middle School 1:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/pianomid1

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @pianomid1 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @pianomid1 to (331) 208-5711.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/pianomid1 on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

-Johann Sebastian Bach

Great Composers: "Johann Sebastian Bach" (not rated)
This video is part of the iNTERSiDEA Open Source Academy selection

-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

"Amadeus" (1984) R
The incredible story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart told by his peer and secret rival Antonio Salieri - now confined to an insane asylum.

-Ludwig Van Beethoven

"Immortal Beloved" (1994) R
The life and death of the legendary Ludwig van Beethoven. Besides all the work he is known for, the composer once wrote a famous love letter to a nameless beloved and the movie tries to find out who this beloved was. Not as easy as Beethoven has had many women in his life

-Frederic Chopin

"Chopin. Pragnienie miłości" (2002) R
The biography of world-famous Polish composer Frederic Chopin.

-Scott Joplin

Drama/Biography (1977) PG

-Franz Liszt

"Liszt in the World"
University of California Television (UCTV)

-Peter I. Tchaikovsky

BBC: Great Composers

COURSE CONTENT VIEWING PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM

During the course of the year, we will be viewing films about composers. Usually, the instructor provides viewing selections that adhere to the G, PG, or PG-13 standards of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). However, occasionally the films we study or watch in class are rated "R". Additionally, some foreign films, independent films, and pre-MPAA films may not be rated, but rather classified as "Unrated." The instructor will use the guidelines as established by the MPAA to determine if an Unrated film should be shown in class.

All of the class viewings will be accompanied by contextualization and discussion revolving around the social conditions in which the film was produced, the intended audience, and ethical implications of representation.

In order for your child to view these films, we require the signed permission of a parent or guardian. Should you decide that your child may NOT study or view films that have been given an "R" rating, the instructor will provide an alternate course of study during class viewing time. At any time a parent may request information about any films viewed in class.

For more information about the ratings established by the MPAA, visit their website at www.mpa.org.

ATTACHED IS A LIST OF FILMS THAT WILL BE SHOWN IN THIS CLASS.

This is to certify that my student _____,
Has permission to view selected films to be shown in class. I certify that I am the parent or guardian of the student and am authorized to give this permission. I also understand that I can contact the instructor for information about any of the films shown in class.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

-OR-

Check this box:

I prefer that my student, _____ be given an alternate course of study during class viewings that include anything rated "R" according the motion picture industry.

NSAA Cell Phone Policy

NSAA will institute a school-wide cell phone policy for the 2019-20 school year. All cell phones will be collected in a phone caddy or cell phone center at the beginning of each class. Students will have full access to their phones before and after school, at lunch, and during class passing periods. Phones will not be accessible during bathroom breaks. Limited cell phone usage in class will be allowed per teacher discretion for instructional purposes. Teachers and administrators will have complete discretion to deal with cell phone “emergencies” on a case by case basis.

Please initial below to indicate your understanding of this policy.

_____	_____
Student	Parent/Guardian

Social Contract for Performance

By signing and returning this page of the syllabus, I understand and will follow the course policies for this class, the Student Handbook, and the Parent/Student/School compact. I have read and understood the criteria for performances, and will adhere to the rules and policies set forth by both the school and the instructor. I also understand that the school will not be responsible for lost or stolen personal property, including musical instruments.

Student's Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Parent's Name (please print)

Parent's Signature

