

General Music

Syllabus

Mr. Litwin, nathan.litwin@yadkin.k12.nc.us

Course Description

In the general music course students will explore the wide range of music that exists. Students will build on prior music literacy skills, and they will practice rhythm counting and note reading. We will explore a variety of music from different time periods and discuss what goes into making these different types of music. Students will also have the opportunity to make their own music in a variety of ways. Throughout the course we will listen to a variety of music, and students will learn how to be critical listeners as we explore everything from popular music to obscure experimental music. Throughout all of this course we will look at how music was affected by world events as well. Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge through a series of hands-on projects that they put together. Students will be asked to participate in performance based activities in class such as demonstrating rhythm counting or basic singing, but there is no required concert performance aspect to the course as it stands for now.

Supply List

- Most of the work is going to be done directly on the chromebook this semester to avoid carrying extra supplies.
 - That said, it is always a good idea to have some paper and a folder to organize any hard copy notes that your students may want to have.

Grading

- Daily Music Journals - 5 Points for each entry, 25 a week. These will all be done online this year, and students who miss a day will have the chance to make them up at their convenience.
- In Class Projects - Students will have projects to work in in class based on the units being worked on in class. They will usually have either one or two weeks to work on these projects based on the number of steps the project has as well as how well students are working in class. Points for each project or sections of a project will depend on what the project is and how many sections of it there are of the project.
- Online Quizzes - There may be an occasional online quiz. These will be done mostly through Canvas, and we will go over how to use that and any other quizzing tools used.
- Extra Credit Opportunities- There may be opportunities for extra credit. Students will be notified of this. The way this has been done in the past will not work under the current circumstances, but plans will be made for other opportunities.
- Other Assignment types may present themselves later.

Journaling

- Each class will begin with listening journals. These are 5 daily points that go toward your grade, and they add up quickly.
- The musical selections for each journal may be random or related to that week's unit.
- Students are asked to listen to the song selection and then write a short paragraph (3-5 full sentences, no bullet points) on what they hear. They can include comments on the instrumentation they hear, subject material of the piece. If a student wants to state that they like or dislike a listening selection then they need to explain why in detail to the best of their ability.
- Journaling will be done online in Canvas so that students can keep track of where they are for the week or work ahead/catch up if they get off due to distance learning days.

Food Policy

The only drink students are allowed to have in class is water. Otherwise there is no eating or drinking allowed during class. This includes no chewing gum. Medical exceptions may apply. Students need to have a mask on in class when they are not drinking water.

Classroom Expectations

Mr. Litwin's Classroom expectations for all students are as follows:

1. Respect yourself and others.
2. Listen intently when Mr. Litwin is talking, when another student has been called on, and when we are listening to music or watching a video in class.
3. Follow instructions when given the first time.
4. Follow procedures that are put in place. They are there for your safety.
5. ASK QUESTIONS! This shows that you are paying attention!

Bathroom Policy

Students will use the restroom no more than 2 at a time during our designated bathroom times according to the schedule put together by the teachers.

Chromebook Policy

Students will regularly use their chromebooks in the chorus class. They are not to be opened unless students are specifically instructed to. **Students should not open their chromebooks once they have arrived and are waiting for class to start.** Students who misuse chromebooks in class or use them without being told to will have their chromebook taken away for the rest of the school day, and they will be returned to their home room teacher at the end of the day. (These procedures may temporarily change due to specific circumstances)

Discipline

When students CHOOSE to not follow these expectations, the following actions will be put into place.

1. Verbal or Non-Verbal Warning and a negative Class Dojo point
2. Parent contact, usually through Class Dojo
3. Student seat moved and/or Silent Lunch
4. Referral, Sent to Office

The steps outlined may be skipped based on the level of offense, continuing offenses, or new policies under the current circumstances.