***Rancho Verde High School***

***2016-2017 Beginning Piano Course***

School Information

Rancho Verde High School

Ms. Allyson Huntsman, Choir Director

17750 Lasselle Street

Moreno Valley, CA, 92551

951.490.4680 ext. 31703

951.490.4685 fax

ahuntsman@valverde.edu

**Course Details**

Course Description: This course is designed to:

1. Familiarize students with the layout of the piano
2. Develop basic music theory skills.
3. Train students to use proper playing techniques

Teaching these skills will enable students to progressively read and play music on the piano.

**Classroom Rules, Procedures, and Discipline**

**Classroom Rules**

1. Remain in YOUR chosen seat unless you have permission from the teacher (no floating around the room).
2. Raise your hand if you need assistance.
3. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your classroom.
4. Stay clear of:
   1. Ms. Huntsman’s Desk and Office
   2. Storage Rooms and Cabinets
5. Handle keyboards/stands, earphones, music stands, with care. **Defacing, leaning on, harsh-handling, or any other improper usage is not permitted.**

**Piano Lab Rules**

1. Food, Drinks, and Gum are not permitted.
2. Stay on task – make the most of your practice time.
3. Keep the volume on your keyboard moderate (not too loud).
4. Always keep headphones plugged in.
5. Refrain from pounding on or leaning on the keys.
6. Do not use the keyboard as a desk or table.
7. Play only with finger tips, not knuckles.
8. Power off your keyboard at the end of class.
9. Do not remove or play with cables.
10. Treat the piano, bench, and earphones with care.

If you break a rule, you will lose playing privileges.

**Consequences**

1st offense: correction (gum, food, and electronic devices = loss of participation points)

2nd offense: student relocation, complete alternative assignment, parent contact.

3rd offense (or non-completion of alternative assignment): after school detention, class suspension/referral.

\*Teacher reserves the right to skip steps for severe offenses.

**Electronic Devices**

If a student is on their electronic device, then they are failing to participate. Keep them put away and make the most of your practice time!

**What will happen in class?**

When you enter the classroom:

1. Find your station for the day. Students will have the same keyboard station for the entire year.

\*When the bell rings, any student out of a seat will be marked tardy/absent.

During Class:

1. Please do not talk during class while Ms. Huntsman is instructing. *It is considered* ***rude and disrespectful*** *if you talk while the teacher is trying to instruct the class.*
2. During daily practice time, if you are working with a partner, any talking should be at a low volume so as not to distract other stations.
3. If you are unsuccessful at your station (excessive talking or consistently off task), you will be relocated.
4. If the teacher asks you to write something down, please follow their directions THE FIRST TIME.
5. This is a self-study class; pretty much all class time will consist of students working independently at their piano stations.
6. Raise your hand if you have a question or need assistance, and Mrs. Huntsman will respond.

At the end of class:

1. The teacher dismisses you, not the bell.
2. Return all of your materials to the appropriate spot and power down your keyboard.
3. Leave the classroom as clean as it was when you entered.

All students will need to bring the following items to class everyday:

1. Pencil (notice this is first on the list)
   * Without a writing utensil, students cannot take notes in class, and therefore cannot fully participate.
   * Students may ask to borrow a pencil from Ms. H (something will be held as collateral – I am serious!)
2. 3-ring binder to hold course materials (this binder will remain in the classroom at student stations)
   * Due by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
   * If a student takes their binder home to practice, they must be sure to bring it back to class, or they will be considered unprepared.
3. Class Syllabus
   * Signed portion due by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Classroom Discipline

The school discipline procedures will be followed. See the discipline procedures posted in the classroom for more details.

Make Up Work

Students are responsible for their own make up work. Students will need to copy notes from a friend (not during class), or they may make an appointment with Ms. Huntsman to make-up work after school.

Late-Work Policy

All work must be turned in the day it is due in order to be eligible for full credit. Assignments turned in late will be eligible for half credit (at most).

If a special circumstance did not allow you time to complete the assignment, I will need a note from a parent or guardian. If given prior notification, Ms. Huntsman will most likely extend the deadline.

If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, they are responsible for turning it in the day they return, or an automatic reduction will result.

Some assignments will not be accepted late.

Papers turned in without a name will receive zero credit. **If you want credit, put your name on it!**

Hall Passes

Students will receive 3 restroom passes for the semester. If a student uses all of their restroom passes, each additional time they need to leave the room, they will lose their participation points for the day. At the end of the semester, any remaining unused restroom passes will be traded in for extra credit. Nurse passes are only written in the event of an emergency. Medical problems need to be explained to the teacher with a parental note to avoid problems.

**How You Will be Graded**

**Daily participation in class 20% of final grade**

* Students will receive 5 participation points per day. You need to have your binder, your full cooperation, and you must stay on task for the entire period in order to receive your full 5 participation points.
* If you fail to be on task during class, break a rule, and/or are written up for a classroom disruption, you will lose all of your participation points for the day. These points can not be made up.

**Written Worksheets 10% of final grade**

* Students will be completing music theory worksheets regularly. Worksheets are designed to reinforce what students are learning.

**Written/Playing Tests and Quizzes 70% of final grade**

* During this class you will take both unit quizzes on the material you are learning, as well as a midterm and a final (written and/or playing). These are designed to make sure you are retaining (keeping) the material you are learning in your brain.
* Students will be administered a playing test every week on either Thursday or Friday. In the second semester, students will have more time between tests.
* Material will be reviewed thoroughly before each quiz, midterm, and final.
* If a student is absent on the day of the test, they will schedule a make-up test with Ms. Huntsman after school.
* Students will not be permitted to make-up their midterm or final.

**Extra Credit**

* An option for extra credit will be given from time to time. I encourage all of you to take advantage of extra credit when possible.
* Tissues! 1 box of tissues = 1 extra credit point. The maximum number of “tissue” extra credit points is 5.
* Help at choir fundraisers.

**Homework**

* Ms. Huntsman may assign homework if students use class time unwisely.
* Otherwise, students are only expected to work on the following assignments at home:

1. Review for quizzes/midterm/final

**Keyboard Lab Hours**

Ms. Huntsman is here after-school almost every day. Students are more than welcome to come to the choir room after school to practice on the keyboard. Ms. Huntsman may be available during this time for assistance. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is a great opportunity for individual assistance on playing assignments.

Please remove this page to turn in.

**Student and Parent/Guardian Contract**

We (student and parents/guardians) have read, understand and agree to all the terms/conditions contained within this syllabus. We understand how our student’s grade is determined. We understand that our child needs to behave according to classroom rules, and that the Rancho Verde Discipline Policy will be used as necessary.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print legibly so that I can read whose form this is, thank you)

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Name (print)

Email Address

Please provide any and all email addresses so that I can keep in contact with you throughout the year. I am very good with email!

My email is [ahuntsman@valverde.edu](mailto:ahuntsman@valverde.edu)

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to include anything else you need to inform me of:

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