

Introduction to Music – Freshman Semester Course
Course Outline and Syllabus
Fine Arts Department

Location - Band Room

Instructor - Mr. Steve Caslowitz

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Materials - Musical equipment used in class.

Course Description

The first unit of this class will be an exploration of the basic elements of music: **rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre and dynamics**. Using contemporary music examples, the class will experience music through **listening, writing and performing**. For the second unit, students will survey music from several periods of Classical and Jazz history. Finally, for the culminating project, students will create and produce an original musical composition or song. Small class committees will craft ideas about the music, its lyrics and packaging.

Classroom Decorum

As with any class, an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness to growth must be maintained by student and teacher alike for a student to flourish to his full potential.

Goals

By the end of the term students will be able to

1. Identify fundamental musical terms and concepts regarding rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre and dynamics.
2. Properly notate basics of musical notation including pitch, rhythm, timbre and dynamic markings.
3. Identify compositional musical forms and instruments.
4. Perform original class compositions alone and with others in a class-recorded project.

Homework Assignments

Students will be given assignments that will include writing and responding to questions about the elements of music. Additionally, they will be working as part of a group for song projects.

Grading

All assessments will be through the lens of the 5 global Arts Department themes: attention to **Craftsmanship** meeting **Criteria**, demonstrating uniqueness through **Creativity**, making **Contextual** references and contributing with helpful **Critiques**. Assessments will be posted on Gradebook following each assignment's due date. A grade of "Pass" or "Fail" will be given at the end of the semester.

Complete the "Syllabus Acknowledgement" form uploaded on schoology by the end of the 1st cycle.