**Montford Middle School Piano Lab Syllabus 2021-2022**

**Luke McManus Teacher**

Welcome to the Piano Lab! We have an exciting semester ahead of us. Students will be learning how to play a new instrument and develop their musicianship skills on the piano. In this syllabus, you will find important information about the class including materials needed, grading procedures, and important dates. Please read over the syllabus and let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by email at mcmanusl@leonschools.net or on the Remind app.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide opportunities for students to develop their musical skills through the use of pianos. Students can achieve goals through performance, which they cannot achieve otherwise. Students are taught to broaden their interests in music studies as well as pursue personal interest in piano. In addition, playing, creating, and listening experiences will include a wide range of musical media, form, and style. Students will be able to apply the musical skills that are taught to performing on the piano.

**Course Objective:** To promote the understanding of piano, musical skills, and fundamentals.

**Course Outline:**

Unit 1— Introduction to the Piano and Rhythm. - Posture and sitting position - Finger Numbers - Hand Position - Basic Note Values - Note Names

Unit 2—Music Notation - Treble and Bass clef - C5 finger position - Notes on the staff - Intervals - 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 Time signatures

Unit 3—Harmonizing Melodies - Intro to the C chord - Balancing melody and accompaniment - G7 Chord - Chord Progressions - Upbeat - Fermata Sign - Intro to sharps and flats

Unit 4—Playing and Reading in Middle C Position - Intro to Middle C position - Tempo Marks - Review of intervals - Songs with sharps and flats - 1st and 2nd endings – Staccato

**Required Materials:** -

-Alfred Adult All-in-One Series—Level One • This book may be purchased at Beethoven Music or Music Masters. Students must have these books in class by August 23rd

-A notebook or binder to keep handouts and worksheets

-A pencil

-A few sheets of notebook paper for any class notes

**Grading policy**

70% musical assessment (written tests, playing tests)

30% student work (practicing, individual written assignments, etc.)

Note: Students may make up any test grade that is lower than an A throughout the 9 weeks. The student is responsible for initiating this re-take! Any class or homework must be made up within two weeks barring extenuating circumstance that has been discussed with Mr. McManus

**Discipline procedure**

Students will be given some leeway to quietly talk and work independently or in groups. As long as this process remains on task and productive, no discipline should be necessary during this time. However, during periods of teacher instruction, it is expected that students will be silent and attentive. Should this, or any other class or school rule (use of gum, cell phone, disorderly conduct, etc.) not be followed, the discipline system will work as follows:

Offense 1: Student issued verbal warning, incident logged as minor referral in FOCUS

Offense 2: Student issued verbal warning and a writing assignment to be taken home and signed by parent, logged as minor referral in FOCUS

Offense 3: Student issued referral in FOCUS

**Important dates**

August 20: 1st semester students must have their Alfred Adult All in One piano course book in class

December 10: 1st semester students in-class piano recital. This event is required for a grade.

January 17: 2nd semester students must have their Alfred Adult All in One piano course book in class

April 29: 2nd semester students in-class piano recital. This event is required for a grade.

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR KEYBOARD CLASS. THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO MR. McMANUS BY AUGUST 24.

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

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_