

8th Grade Music Syllabus 2012-2013

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PARENTS: Thanks for letting me work with your kids. If you only have 1 minute, read “the three most important things” now. The rest of the syllabus goes into more detail, and I’d love for you to read it at your convenience.

The Three Most Important Things

1. Students must bring three things to class **every day**: a **spiral bound notebook**, a pencil, and their agenda.
2. School rules are classroom rules.
3. Students’ **grades** will come from a **variety of activities**.

An e-mail about this handbook will be sent to you with a “voting button.” Please respond to it, returning the attached forms and letting Mr. Cole know you and your child have reviewed **the entire handbook** and accepted the information. (If you mistakenly do not receive an e-mail, please contact Mr. Cole at colea@fultonschools.org.)

If you do not have access to a computer, please sign and date the last page and return it to school with your child.

Thanks for your time.

The Details

Course Objectives:

Students will deepen their understanding of what music is, and how and why it is made. They will learn about music from many cultures, will have opportunities to practice performing for their peers, and will review and expand their understanding of music theory and practice.

Materials: The textbook Making Music will remain in the classroom for student use when needed. Students are required to bring a pencil, spiral-bound notebook, and their agenda every day to class.

Class Expectations:

Each student is expected to adhere to the behavior expectations as outlined in the student agenda pages 5-7.

- Students are expected to be in class, in their seat, on time with materials.
- Students are expected to respect their own and other's property, rights, and opinions.
- Students are expected to follow all HBMS rules as stated in the handbook.
- Students are expected to give their very best at all times.
- Students are expected to turn in written assignments and projects on time.
- No Gum, Food, or Drink is allowed in the music room.

*Parents should check the student's agenda daily for communication from the teacher. Students not following class expectations will receive a note home to notify parents. If you receive a note, please sign it to indicate that you received it.

Tardy is defined school-wide as not being inside the classroom when the final bell rings. When the final bell rings to be in class, teachers are not to allow students into the room. Tardy students are to report immediately to the ISS supervisor in room 22. Once there, the student's tardy will be recorded and consequences will be assigned based upon the progressive consequence scale. Students will be given a tardy pass that details their consequence and informs the teacher what time the student left the tardy room. **Students who arrive to the tardy room later than the five minute window will be sent to the office for cutting class.**

Consequences for not following the classroom expectation will be as follows:

1. Warning in class
2. Note to parent in agenda
3. Phone call to parent
4. Teacher detention
5. Office Referral

*Immediate detention for the 3rd tardy to class, chewing gum or eating in class.

Grading Policies: The standard Fulton County grading scale will be followed.

A=100-90%

B=89-80%

C=79-70%

F=69% and below.

The student's grade will be determined using the following formula.

40% Class Participation- A weekly class participation grade will be given.

Participation includes following directions, bringing class materials, holding the instruments appropriately, answering questions when called on, and being attentive at all times. Failure to bring materials (pencil, notebook, and agenda) will result in a 10 point reduction in the participation grade for each day the student does not have materials. Two verbal warnings on the same issue in the same class will also result in a 10 point reduction for the weekly participation grade.

20% Written Work and Computer Work-Periodically, written assignments will be given. Generally, time will be allowed for those assignments to be completed in class. Students not completing their work in class are required to finish the assignment for homework to be turned in the following day. Reduced credit will be given for late assignments. We will sometimes go as a class to the computer lab. If the student is absent on a lab day, it will be his or her responsibility to make up the time before or after school.

30% Tests, Quizzes, and Presentations-Periodic tests and quizzes, both playing and written, will be given to assess the students knowledge of the subject matter. Any student absent on test/quiz day is expected to make up the test/quiz the following day in class.

10% Final exam and Final project – The students are working towards an understanding of a number of terms and concepts that will enable them to create a musical composition by the end of the 9 weeks.

Middle School Recovery Process from the Board policy on Grading and Reporting (IHA)

All students are expected to make up any missing assignment due to an absence in a timely manner. See page 3 in the student agenda for the specific guidelines.

B. Provision for improving grades

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed

and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.

2. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

The Graduation Coach's primary responsibility is to work with all students to encourage academic success. Dr. Pagnotti offers a variety of academic programs that can help students achieve. These programs (Working Lunch, Friday Finish, Feed Your Mind) have been extremely successful in providing support to all students.

The Guidance Counselors are available to assist with any academic and social needs you may encounter during the school year.

Parent Section

I have read the 8th Grade Music Syllabus in its entirety and have discussed it with my child. I will do everything possible to ensure that my child is successful this year in music.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent name and e-mail (**please print**): _____

day time phone number: _____

Student Section

I have read the 6th Grade Music Syllabus in its entirety and have discussed it with my parents. I understand what is expected of me and I will do my best this year in Music!

Student signature: _____ Date: _____