



**Northwestern Middle School
General Music Syllabus 2016-2017
Grades 6-8**



Teacher: Evelyn Champion, ChampionE@Fultonschools.org

Textbooks: Essential Elements for Guitar, Sound Innovations for Guitar, Alfred's Music Theory 1&2 for Guitar, ToneSavvy.com

Course Description: General Music utilizes a Standards-Based Curriculum which focuses on the following nine standards:

- Singing, alone & with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Performing on instruments, alone & with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing & arranging music
- Reading & notating music
- Listening to, analyzing & describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music & other disciplines
- Understanding music in relation to history & culture

Course Outline: Students in the General Music class will be actively involved in music making through the use of guitars and handbells. They will accomplish the Georgia Performance Standards through their participation in class and the music they use. Topics will come from the following:

- Basic Notation
- Note Reading
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Recognition of musical genres
- Recognition of musical timbres
- Instruments
- Musical Theater
- Performing (guitar, keyboard, voice)
- Range
- Elements of Composition
- Careers in Music
- Famous performers/composers

Teacher/Parent Communication:

Email – is the most efficient way to contact teachers

Interim Report Cards – come home every 4 ½ weeks

Home Access Center – please check frequently for your child's progress

Mrs. Champion's email is ChampionE@Fultonschools.org.

Please ensure you are also registered for the Home Access Center (HAC) so you can view your child's grades. Teachers will post grades in HAC within 2 weeks of test dates or project/assignment due dates.

Behavior Expectations

Students who do not meet the expectations in the classroom will receive a warning on the first offense, a written assignment on the second offense with parent notification, then a morning or lunch detention on the third offense.

Grading:

1. Major Assignments: 50%

*Playing Assessments/Written Assessments

Due to the performance-based nature of our curriculum, being actively engaged in listening, playing, notating, and evaluating activities will lead to students' accomplishment of the standards.

Students will be assessed on performance skills through playing tests

Student will be assessed on understanding of concept through written tests

2. Minor Assignments: 50%

*Written Assessments

Students will be assessed on mastery of topics covered in class: Music theory, music history, basic notation, relationships between music and other disciplines

Written assignments in theory workbook

Online assignments through ToneSavvy.com

Fulton County Grading Scale:

A: 100-90

B: 89-80

C: 79-70

F: 69 and below

Connections Recovery Policy: Recovery is available for all assignments BEFORE SCHOOL ONLY. Student will receive the higher grade for recovery.

Help Sessions: Every Tuesday beginning at 8:00am students are welcome to come in for help. Students may also practice independently or in small groups any other day of the week, except Fridays.

Absence Make-Up Procedures (FCBOE Policy JBD): Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teachers to request make-up work. Make-up work must be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. At NMS, students will be given the same amount of time to make up the work as the student was absent unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon. The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was "excused." **Students have a maximum of two weeks to make up any assignments missed when absent. General Music playing tests must be made up before school.**

Work not Turned In: Students who do not turn in a major assignment are allowed to recover, but 10 percent per day is deducted for lateness. Any major assignment not turned in by the end of the 9-week quarter results in zero points due to 9 week Connections courses and report card grading deadlines.

Study Guide Policy: Students at Northwestern Middle School will be provided a study guide to use when studying for their assessments. This study guide will include key vocabulary and essential questions to be answered. This guide will be given at least a week prior to the test and answers will be provided in class and online.

Plagiarism Policy: Academic honesty is very important at Northwestern Middle School. It is the responsibility of both the student and parent to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism consequences.

Examples of Plagiarism and Cheating

- ✗ Falsifying laboratory data (both copying and creating it)
- ✗ Copying others words, ideas, thoughts and images
- ✗ Modifying an image when the assignment requires original work
- ✗ Paraphrasing and summarizing without citing the source
- ✗ Providing another student with your work, even if you do not know they are going to use it as their own (includes sharing homework answers)
- ✗ Providing others with quiz/test answers either before, during, or after the quiz/test

How to prevent plagiarism

- ✓ Words/ideas: cite sources for information that is quoted, summarized, and paraphrased.
- ✓ Images: cite source of image.
- ✓ If an assignment calls for original images, this means they must be created from scratch and not taken/traced from books, magazines, internet, etc. Original work is also not a modification of images from books, magazines, internet, etc.
- ✓ Do not wait until the last minute to complete your work.
- ✓ If you are unsure if you are plagiarizing, please consult your teacher.
- ✓ Grade entered will be a zero until the new assignment is received.

All plagiarizing will result in the following:

1. Parents will be notified
2. Students will re-do the assignment or an alternative assignment
3. Possible administrative referral

**Please detach and return the signed portion of the syllabus by Friday, March 31, 2017.
KEEP THE TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS**



We have reviewed the General Music class syllabus.

Student Name (Printed): _____ Grade: 6 7 8

Student Signature: _____ **GENERAL MUSIC**

Parent Signature: _____