

PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: PIANO/SONGWRITING LAB

Course Overview and Essential Skills

Piano/Songwriting is an entry-level to advanced hands-on group piano lesson course that concentrates on the comprehension, application, and integration of chords while building a foundation for success in songwriting. Students will be able to play songs using chord names as well as compose their own song and collaborate online with people all around the world.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- Computers [Provided By District]
- Digital Audio Workstation Software/Hardware [Provided By District]
- Piano/Keyboards [Provided By District]
- Headphones
- Kompoz.com - Website

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Piano Orientation	Students will put the first things first by understanding the musical notes on the piano keyboard as well as practicing posture and fingering for ergonomic positioning.	<u>2 Weeks</u>
Major Scales, Major Triads, and Circle of Fifths	Students will identify major scales and major triads in every key by using the Circle of Fifths as a guide while synergizing with the class.	<u>2 Weeks</u>
Chord Creation - Changes	This unit covers the construction and identifying of major, minor, diminished, augmented, and suspended chords in every key. Students will put the first things first and learn how to write the chords before they play them.	<u>2 Weeks</u>
Chord Creation - Additions	This unit covers the construction and identifying of major 7th, dominant 7th, 6th, half diminished, fully diminished, 9th, and 11th chords in every key. We will also cover the relevance of the slash (/) added to any chord. Students will be proactive by applying these chords to the charts they receive.	<u>2 Weeks</u>
Improvisation	This unit gives the students practical application using scales for use with beginner piano improvisation. They will synergize by composing short riffs in appropriate sections of songs.	<u>1 Week</u>
Chord Progressions and Song Creation	In an effort to begin with the end in mind, this unit teaches the function of chords within chord progressions,	<u>9 Weeks</u>

	musical form, basic composition skills, and global collaboration.	
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****Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***