

# PIANO CLASS

## Ketchikan High School

**Duration:**

Two semester course.

**Prerequisite:**

Willingness to learn to read music and play piano.

**Course Description:**

Beginning group piano course for students with little or no previous piano instruction. Areas covered will include fundamentals of posture and hand position, reading music, reading chord charts, solo playing, duets and group playing, basic accompanying using both written notation and chord symbols, understanding of basic music theory, progress in technical proficiency, and introduction to composition and computer notation programs. Course will be somewhat adapted to challenge individual levels and rates of progress.

**Instructional Materials:**

Class piano method book

**Technology Resources:**

Touch sensitive electric keyboards with headphones and midi interface capability, individual laptop computers at workstations, digital projector.

**Standards and Benchmarks:** (from the Alaska Content Standards for music)

*Standard A – A student should be able to create and perform in the arts.*

*Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.*

- Students will perform alone and with others in using correct posture, fingering, and technique and demonstrating understanding of dynamic and articulation markings.

*Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments; reading music; and creating music for various media.*

- Students will play both written music as well as chordal accompaniments and improvisational melodies which will at times be transcribed using computer notation programs.

*Recognize and know about the skills needed to pursue different careers in music.*

- Discussion on various career paths in music and the importance of basic keyboard training for almost any musical career.

*Standard B – A student should be able to understand the historical and contemporary role in the arts in Alaska, the nation, and the world.*

- Students will study music of various genres, time periods, and cultures.

*Standard C – A student should be able to critique the student's art and the art of others.*

*Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.*

- Students will be learn to critique music using appropriate musical terminology and referring to technical aspects studied in the course.

*Standard D – A student should be able to recognize beauty and meaning through the arts in the students' life.*

- Discussion of emotions evoked by various styles of music, comparison of individuals' musical preferences, and study of the use of music throughout history.

### **Curriculum:**

All of course curriculum will be taught, however individual students' experience and interests will be considered and more in-depth study may be encouraged in various areas of the curriculum for various students.

### Keyboard Basics

- Students will demonstrate correct posture
- Students will give the letter names for the white keys of the keyboard

### Basic Music Literacy

- Students will clap and play correct note and rest values of the following denominations:
  - Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, dotted values
- Students will define time signatures
- Students will name the treble clef lines and spaces
- Students will name the bass clef lines and spaces
- Students will identify and define sharps, flats, and naturals
- Students will define key signatures
- Students will identify and translate dynamic markings
- Students will identify and translate tempo markings
- Students will identify, define, and compare articulation markings

### Intervals

- Students will recognize whole steps and half steps written and on the keyboard
- Students will identify melodic and harmonic intervals written and on the keyboard

### Chords

- Students will identify and play major triads in root position in all keys
- Students will identify and play minor triads in root position in all keys
- Students will identify and play augmented chords in root position in all keys
- Students will identify and play diminished chords in root position in all keys
- Students will identify and play major and minor seventh chords in keys necessary for the literature being studied

### Technique

- Students will play major scales and arpeggios in all keys at a slow tempo
- Students will play minor scales and arpeggios in all keys at a slow tempo
- Students will play according to tempo, dynamic, and articulation markings
- Students will demonstrate appropriate use of the sostenuto pedal

### Functional Theory

- Students will demonstrate understanding of the relationship between the tonic and dominant chords of specific keys

- Students will demonstrate understanding of the subdominant chord

#### Accompanying

- Students will improvise a walking bass line
- Students will use chord charts to improvise chordal accompaniments in the left hand to simple melodies played in the right hand
- Students will use chord charts to improvise chordal accompaniments to a vocal or instrumental solo line

#### Literature

- Students will play pieces from various time periods, genres, composers, and nationalities
- Students will sightread simple pieces
- Students will play duets and ensemble pieces

#### Technology

- Students will use Sibelius music notation program to transcribe original and studied pieces to written music
- Students will edit transcribed music to adjust for rhythmic inaccuracy

#### Composition

- Students will compose, transcribe, and perform a short piece comprised of a melody line and chordal accompaniment