**SHAW HIGH SCHOOL**

**BEGINNING PIANO CLASS SYLLABUS (Beginning Level)**

**2016 - 2017**

**Donna Bedenbaugh Dooley, Instructor**

**Room 421 School Phone: 706-569-3638**

[**dooley.donna@muscogee.k12.ga.us**](mailto:dooley.donna@muscogee.k12.ga.us)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Beginning piano class teaches basic skills and musicianship needed to perform on the piano.

Although this is a piano class, students will learn at different rates. Therefore, the instructor will act as a guide, providing individualized instruction, suggestion, and practice techniques when necessary.

Students are encouraged to progress at their own pace, and to challenge their self musically.

By the end of the course the student should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

1. Read music notation on both the bass and treble staff.

2. Demonstrate the ability to read and perform basic rhythm patterns found in 3 /4, 4/4 and 2/4 time signatures.

3. Play selected one octave pentascales and major scales.

4. Play in tempo using a metronome as a soloist and also in an ensemble setting (duets).

5. Perform by reading music from the book and also playing memorized pieces.

6. Demonstrate the ability to read and perform pieces with an understanding of musical terminology learned throughout the course.

7. Each student will develop the confidence and skills to practice independently and develop an appreciation of recreational piano playing.

8. Ultimately, students will be given the foundation of musical understanding to develop a lifelong love of music.

**MATERIALS NEEDED DAILY**

A portion of the student’s daily Practice/Preparation grade will be determined based on bringing the following required materials to class.

**Required Textbooks** –The students must purchase their own textbooks: ***Accelerated Piano Adventures for the Older Beginner (Lesson and Theory Books 1)*** by Nancy and Randall Faber. The lesson and theory books may be purchased from Ms. Dooley for $20. Bring exact amount. No checks.

**Class Piano 3-Ring Binder with 5 dividers** – provided by the student.

**Pencil and Paper** – provided by the student. **You MUST have a pencil at all times. No ink pens!**

**Ear buds** – provided by the student

**INSTRUMENTS**

Students will use electric pianos supplied by Shaw High School. It is expected that each student will treat the school instruments with respect and do their upmost to prevent damage. Damage to a piano will result in a fee. Instruments will be assigned to students on a rotation basis.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. **ABSOLUTLY** **NO GUM, FOOD OR DRINKS** (Water is allowed in the room).

2. **CELL PHONES OFF** unless used for a class activity assigned by Ms. Dooley. District policy and consequences will be followed for the misuse of a cell phone.

3. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings and begin bell work if assigned.

Students are dismissed by the teacher – not the bell!

4. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak. No interruptions at any time!

5. Follow instructions the first time they are given

6. Students are only allowed in the choir room and other rooms inside the choir room when an instructor

is present, and/or specific permission is granted.

7. Students must ask to use any electronic device or the piano.

8. Students should knock, and then receive permission to enter the director’s office.

9. A cubby will be assigned to each student. Personal items and books from other classes or not allowed to be stored in the cubby. **The only items that can remain in the cubby on a permanent basis are the required student materials.** All other items will be removed and placed in the lost and found box for one week. After one week, the items will be discarded. Students MUST use their assigned locker for personal items and other class materials.

11. No purses, school approved back packs, or bags of any type are allowed at the student’s seat. Leave

these items in the assigned cubby.

10. **RESPECT EVERYONE and SCHOOL/CLASSROOM PROPERTY!**

No cursing or teasing. Be appropriate in all you say and do.

Because negative attitudes and comments damage team spirit, they are strongly discouraged. All music students are expected to try their very best at all times, including keeping their comments constructive, positive, helpful, and considerate.  **Students are expected to follow the Class Procedures Guidelines which is posted in the choir room and on Ms. Dooley’s web site. Consequences for offences will be**

**followed as stated in the Class Procedures Guidelines.**

**GRADING**

**Summative Assessment – 50% of the grade**

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark. Summative assessments are often high stakes, which means that they have a high point value. Examples of summative assessments include: a midterm exam, term project, paper, choral concert, or LGPE.

**Formative Assessment – 50% of the grade**

The goal of formative assessment is to *monitor student learning* to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning. More specifically, formative assessments help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that need work and also help teachers recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Formative assessments are generally *low stakes*, which means that they have low or no point value. Examples of formative assessments include: daily participation grade, individual or small ensemble hearings for sight reading or music parts, concert evaluation, or pencil and paper quizzes for theory knowledge. These assessments will usually involve a rubric.

**PARTICIPATION POINTS – (35% - Formative Assessment)**

**Daily Points = 6 points**

1 – Being in class on time (points will be deducted for unexcused tardy or absence).

1 – Having all necessary materials (binder, pencil and assigned music).

4 – Class Participation is a **subjective grade** based upon participating fully and not being disruptive.

Full participation includes correct posture and being **actively** involved by following Ms. Dooley’s instructions and working on assignments during all class activities. Class participation grades are not based upon the following: how well students play, piano level or popularity.

**Points will be deducted if the student is disrespectful to the teacher or students and/or does not participate.**

You will have the opportunity to make up participation points through an activity assigned by Ms. Dooley. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule a time with Ms. Dooley (before or after school) for a make-up assignment.

All students are expected to participate in class. If there is a need for a special circumstance, please arrange this with Ms. Dooley before class begins and a make-up assignment will be arranged; otherwise, points will be deducted.

**PERFORMANCE – RECITALS (35% - Summative Assessment)**

All students will be graded on a solo performance for the class on assigned days.

Mastery of proper piano technique will also be graded at this time.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the performance schedule based on longer repertoire and special circumstances. The solo performances will be in the form of a recital in which the student performs for the class, and receives constructive remarks from their classmates. Music to be performed will be announced at least one week prior to the weekly recital. Students are encouraged to play a

“dry-run” for the instructor prior to the recital. Recitals can be made up in three days if the absence was excused. Students must make every effort to master the recital music.

A grading rubric will be given to the student.

**TERM PROJECT - (20% Summative Assessment)**

**Composition Assignment**

\*Students will compose an original composition based on guidelines given by Ms. Dooley.

\*A rubric and criteria will be provided for this project.

\*A composition winner and runner-up will be selected by a master musician at the end of the semester.

**End of Semester Public Recital - This is a MANDATORY attendance grade!**

**Dates will be scheduled by October.**

\*Students will perform a solo piece that will be selected by both the student and Ms. Dooley.

No popular-type music will be allowed. The solo piece must be an actual/authentic piano solo

\* Students will either perform or have their original composition performed by Ms. Dooley

**ASSIGNMENT/QUIZES/PROJECTS (10% - Summative and Formative Assessments)**

The following music subjects will be emphasized throughout the year. Good pianists are good musicians! Tests, projects, and specific assignments will be used as evaluations.

\*The fundamentals of music (Note Names, Rhythm/Meter, Terms, Symbols, etc…).

\*Music History. This will include studying significant periods of music, composers, and music from various cultures.

\*How music relates to other subjects (interdisciplinary).

\*Playing technique exercises correctly and performing selected scales with correct fingering and notes

**Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),**

If at any time during the course of this year you have any questions concerning the beginning piano class, your son/daughter’s progress, or anything else, please feel free to contact me at school at 706-569-3638. I will return your call as soon as possible. E-mail is generally the most effective way of reaching me – “dooley.donna@muscogee.k12.ga.us”

Sincerely,

Ms. Dooley, Piano Class Teacher

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**Shaw High School Beginning Piano Class**

**Student and Parent Agreement**

**Please sign, date and return the agreement on the next page to Ms. Dooley by Friday, August 12, 2016. Participation points will be deducted if the signed form is not turned in on time. The Shaw High School Piano Syllabus should remain in the student’s 3-ring binder in the choir room. Parents can request a copy of the syllabus.**

**2016 - 2017**

**SHAW HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNING PIANO CLASS**

**STUDENT/PARENT (GUARDIAN) CLASS AGREEMENT**

**Due Friday, August 12, 2016**

I have read and understand the Beginning Piano Class policies, rules, requirements, and procedures outlined in the Beginning Piano Class syllabus. I have read and understand the Class Procedure Guidelines that are posted in the choir room and on Ms. Dooley’s website. I also understand the requirement and commitment of the end of semester recitals. I agree to follow Ms. Dooley’s piano class policies and to support the music program to the best of my ability.

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_