

St. Benedict's Prep School
General Music
Fall 2017

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Course Outline & Syllabus

General Music is a class designed to teach students some basic music skills that will enhance their future as both a performer as well as an educated consumer of music. The class is meant to be hands on as much as possible, i.e. learning about rhythm by playing the drums, learning about pitch by playing the piano, etc.

The course is divided into five units as follows:

- I. Rhythm Reading Skills
- II. Pitch Reading Skills
- III. Vocal Skills
- IV. Band Instrument Exposure
- V. Music Technology

Grading:

- 25% Unit Tests
- 20% Quizzes, Classwork, & Homework
- 20% Class Participation & Effort
- 20% Final Exam
- 10% Recital Participation
- 5% Concert Attendance

Grading Scale:

A	94-100
A-	91-93
B+	88-90
B	85-87
B-	82-84
C+	79-81
C	76-78
C-	73-75
D+	70-72
D	67-69
D-	64-66
F	00-63

Class Participation Rubric

A (95%) - The student *almost always*:

B (86%) - *Most of the time*, the student:

C (77%) - *On average*, the student:

D (68%) - *Some of the time*, the student:

F (63%) - The student *almost never*:

- enters the room quietly and goes to his assigned seat.
- sets up his own music folder and instrument without delay.
- waits for instructions and prepares for class both mentally and physically.
- avoids playing common area instruments like the drums, piano, or percussion.
- listens while the teacher is speaking and does not practice or play.
- follows directions quickly without questioning or arguing.
- is polite and respectful of other students during class.
- cleans his area before leaving and picks up any trash, whether or not it's his.
- collects all his personal materials at the end of class.
- returns his music folder to the appropriate area.
- returns his chair and music stand to the correct position.
- returns his instrument to correct area of storage room.

FAQ

1. *Why is an A equal to 95% instead of 100%?* Nobody is perfect.

2. *Are there plus or minus grades?* Yes, this either adds or subtracts 3 points.

For example, a B+ = 89% and an A- = 92%

3. *How do alert slips affect my class participation grade?* An alert slip related to class participation lowers your grade by 3%. One alert slip drops you from an A (95%) to an A- (92%).

Final Recital

At the end of the semester, students will perform in a recital to demonstrate their acquired performance skills. Participation is mandatory. The recital will take place on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the bandroom.

Concert Attendance

Each semester, the performing ensembles (wind ensemble, choir, jazz band) at SBP give a final concert. In an effort to support these ensembles, attendance at this concert by members of the General Music class is mandatory and counts for 5% of the final grade. In addition, since part of the purpose of the class is to generate interest in these ensembles, students need to see them and understand what they do. This semester's concert is Tuesday, December 5th at 7:30 in the auditorium.

Extra Help

Extra help is available after school between 3:15 and 4:15, Tuesday through Thursday. Advanced notice is appreciated.

Late Work

For any written work that is not turned in on time, a student loses a full letter grade (9%) for each day the work is late. If a student is absent when the assignment is given, he will have one day after his return to complete the work before it is considered late. If a student is absent on the day the work is due, but received the assignment in advance, it must be handed in the day of his return.

Late Policy

Every third time a student is late, his OVERALL grade will be lowered by 3%.

Google Docs and Student Email

In order to receive and submit many assignments and other documents (such as this syllabus), students must have the ability to share Google Docs. This means that they must have a functioning Google email account provided by the school that they check and maintain regularly. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that this is working. If a student knows or suspects that his school provided email is not working, he should contact Dexter Lopina in person, by phone at 973-643-4800 x5727, or from an outside email account sent to pchelp@sbp.org.

Discipline:

Students are expected to follow the school's Academic Honor Code and the Community Commitment Code at all times. The school has a computer based reporting system so that when an infraction occurs, a student's teachers, coaches, and parent(s) or guardian(s) can be quickly and simultaneously notified. A record of the incident is also created and stored for reference.

Academic Honor Code

Lying, cheating, and stealing are considered unacceptable violations of the Academic Honor Code and are subject to disciplinary action.

Lie: a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood.

Cheat: to take an examination or test in a dishonest way, as by improper access to answers; to violate rules or regulations.

Steal: to take (the academic property or work of another or others) without permission or right, especially secretly or by force.

Community Commitment Code

“Benedict’s men are persons of integrity. Whatever helps my brother helps me. Trust is the virtue by which we build our community, violation of the community’s trust is grounds for dismissal.”

We respect the property of others and of the community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we care for our own belongings, the possessions of others, and the shared property of the community. Benedict’s men do not steal.

We are truthful with ourselves and with our brothers. Benedict’s men do not lie.

We take pride in each other’s talents and our ability to learn from one another. Benedict’s men live in community.

Band Room Policies

1. The computers are only for use on music class assignments.
2. Students are not permitted in the band room without an adult employee of SBP present.
3. If your instrument breaks, let Dr. Fletcher know immediately. Do not try to fix it yourself and do not take someone else’s equipment. Save all the little parts.
4. Cell phones and tablets may not be used for personal reasons in class. Device charging is not permitted in class.
5. No food. It will be collected and thrown out.

PARENTS:

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN THE SYLLABUS. INSTEAD, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO jfletcher@sbp.org THAT SAYS:

“I AM THE PARENT OF (*your son’s name*). I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE SYLLABUS”