

**St. Benedict's Preparatory School  
Keyboard Orchestra  
Spring Phase 2017**

**Dr. Jeremy Fletcher & Dr. Dennis Lansang, instructors**

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**Course Syllabus**

**Introduction**

In this course, students will learn the basics of playing the piano/keyboard. As their keyboard skills improve, students will learn how to play in an ensemble while using the keyboard and computers to produce different sounds similar to orchestra instruments. Extracurricular practice is an expectation. By the end of the course, students will perform in a short concert presented to the whole school.

**Equipment & Set Up:**

The band room will be equipped with eleven Mac computers. Each computer will be connected to an M-Audio Keystation 66 controller that can be used to input musical data and perform.

**Required Reading:**

How Music Works by John Powell

The book fee is \$20. This must be turned in by the end of the first week or the student will not be permitted to return to class and will receive an incomplete for the term.

**Grading Scale:**

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
F	00-69

**Grading:**

- 20% - Classroom Participation and Behavior
- 20% - Required Reading Assignments
- 20% - Performance Spot Checks
- 30% - Final Performance
- 10% - Blogging

## **Class Participation Rubric**

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

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

**C (77%)** - *Some of the time*, the student:

**F (69%)** - The student *almost never*:

- enters the room quietly and goes to his assigned seat.
- sets up any necessary materials 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.

## **FAQ**

1. *Why is an A equal to 95% instead of 100%?* This is because 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%).

## **Required Reading Assignments**

Each day, the student is responsible for reading approximately 25 pages from the assigned book. There is a set of questions that accompanies each day of reading. Students will be graded on the accuracy and thoroughness of their answers, with the ultimate goal of demonstrating comprehension and not just skimming.

## **Performance Spot Checks**

Students will learn a number of pieces of music during the Keyboard Orchestra class. In order to measure improvement, every couple of days the students will have to perform in class in front the other members and will be graded on the accuracy of their performance.

## **Blogging**

Students will be asked to blog on a weekly basis. Some of these entries will be posted on a course blog spot. These may take the form of writing or video. Students will describe what they have learned as well as the processes involved. This is a way to document the progress of the class as well as prepare for the final presentation.

### **Daily Schedule**

8:30 to 9:00 - dedicated reading time  
9:00 to 9:30 - answering questions on reading  
9:30 to 9:50 - review of the previous day's questions  
9:50 to 10:00 - break  
10:00 to 10:30 - presentation of the day's topic  
10:30 to 12:45 - work time  
12:45 to 1:15 - lunch  
1:15 to 2:00 - wrap up/review/bloggging

### **Field Trips**

The students will take several field trips that involve listening to live ensemble music. On these days, students may be expected to bring lunch money and also money for public transportation. Behavior on field trips will be graded as class participation.

### **Mass**

The class will attend Mass on Thursday, May 11th.

### **Dress Code:**

Although it is Spring Phase, students are still expected to wear their hoodies or polos and school clothes. Other projects may have different dress requirements because of the nature of their activities, such as backpacking and Downtown Clowns. This has no effect on the expectations for the Keyboard Orchestra, which is primarily indoors and at a computer station.

### **Start & Stop Time:**

The expectation for Spring Phase is that students have five hours of concentrated academic time. This does not include lunch time. If lunch is half an hour, then class will start at 8:30 a.m. and students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m.

### **Band Room Policies**

1. The computers are only for use on music class assignments. All other activities must be approved by Dr. Fletcher.
2. Students are not permitted in the band room without an adult employee of SBP present. Anyone found in the band room without an adult present will be cited with a Community Commitment Code violation.
3. If something breaks, let Dr. Fletcher know immediately. Do not try to fix it yourself and don't take someone else's equipment. Try to make sure that you save all the parts.
4. No cell phones. If a cell phone is used in class for calling, texting, or any of its other functions, it will be collected and given to Mr. Rowe.
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](mailto:jfletcher@sbp.org) THAT SAYS:

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