

**Dr. Fletcher**  
**General Music**

**Sharps & Flats**

The black keys on the piano do not have their own names. They are identified in relation to the white keys on either side. If named after the white key to the black key's right, then a flat is used. If named after the white key to the black key's left, then a sharp is used.

Sharp (#)– raising a note by one half step.

Flat (b)– lowering the note by one half step.

Whole Step – the distance from one letter to the next adjacent letter either above or below, assuming that another note exists between them. This is also equal to two half steps.

Half Step – the interval from one note to the next adjacent note either above or below, assuming that there is no other possible note in between.

Scale – traveling in one direction from a note to the same note an octave higher or lower using only half steps and whole steps in a prearranged sequence. The pattern for a major scale is WWHWWWH.

Harmony – two or more consonant notes occurring simultaneously.

Chord – three or more consonant notes occurring simultaneously.

All chords are a form of harmony. All forms of harmony are not chords.

Articulations – the style with which notes are performed.

Staccato – short

Accent – louder

Tenuto – given full value; held

Legato/Slur – played smooth and connected.