

**Syllabus**

**Music Ensemble**

**2019-2020**

Work Hard ~ Be Kind ~ Be Smart

**Instructor Information:**

**Mr. Jared Scolaro**

jascolar@asu.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students will learn the basics of music composition and performance. Topics will include reading music, rhythm, harmonization, arrangement, lyrics writing, and performance. Students will analyze musical concepts in pop music and then create and share original compositions.

**ASSESSMENT STANDARDS & OBJECTIVES:**

Standards and objectives will be loosely based on the Cambridge IGCSE music standards.

**MR. Scolaro’S CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

Sharing music only works in a supportive, open environment where individuals feel comfortable being vulnerable. There will be zero tolerance for disrespecting other individual’s work and/or performances.



**MASTERY-BASED GRADING:**

**Effort Grades**: Assignments that provide additional practice will not count towards a student’s overall mastery grade. Rather, teachers will record them as effort assignments. Students will earn a course effort grade each quarter.

**Mastery Grades**: These are the academic grades that are reported on the official student transcript. It is important to note that the goal for each student is mastery of the standards and the following policies are designed with this goal in mind. Full attempts at mastery will be given a minimum of 50% score.

**Unit-Flex Due Dates:** As part of the standards-based grading model, some submitted work for effort and/or mastery (i.e. academic assignments) will have “flexible” due dates. Effort / academic material must be turned in **the night prior to the Unit Exam** to be counted as “on-time”.

* **PRO:** Flexible due dates work well for students that attend after-school obligations (work, sports, clubs) or have family responsibility that may interfere with homework.
* **CON:** Waiting too long to submit assignments may impact the student’s ability to receive timely feedback prior to the exam. This may ultimately lessen their score.

**\*SPECIAL NOTE\*** Please encourage your student to make EVERY effort to stay current with the Lesson Playlist to stay “on-pace” with the course.\*

Though I sometimes permit flexible due dates, effort and mastery (academic) assignments that are not turned in by the recommended due date (those dates to stay “on-pace” with the class) will be entered as a “0”. This score enables the parent/guardian to quickly determine if the student is falling behind in the coursework and signals home support may be needed.

**Late Work:** Students that submit the effort & academic assignments **the night prior to the Unit Exam** by 11:59 pm will not receive a late penalty. Any work submitted the day of the Unit Exam or after will receive a 20% penalty.

Please note that “late work” will be placed at the bottom of the grading queue to assure timely grading of “on-time” work, but every effort will be made to grade assignments quickly and provide meaningful feedback.

**Absent Work**: Absent students will access Canvas to identify missed work and submit the assignments as promptly as possible, but still must meet the Unit due dates as described above. Any tests or quizzes will be made up within one week of the absence and needs to be scheduled by the student with the teacher.

**Retakes**: Students may retake assessment for the standard if they score less than 90% on their first attempt. Retakes must be taken within one week of the original assessment and will earn a MAX score of 90%. In order to be given the opportunity for retake, students must have completed ALL effort & academic assignments for that Unit.

Teachers also reserve the right to assign alternate assessment based upon individual needs.

**PLAGIARISM:**
It is the responsibility of the student to follow the ASU Prep Way with honesty in regard to the authorship of the work that he/she presents as his/her own. Consequences for plagiarism will be in accordance with the ASU Preparatory Student Code of Conduct / Handbook.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

* Cell phones and other personal electronics will be prohibited throughout the school day. Students’ cell phones must be completely undetectable in backpacks during class. Mr. Scolaro may confiscate any cell phone that is detectable by sight or sound, even if it is not in use.
* No food, drink, gum, or candy in class.  Closed water bottles only!
* Remain in assigned seat unless directed otherwise.
* With a limited number of minutes in the class and many objectives, we must work diligently at all times.
* Passes from class will be limited. Students need to be in class at all times in order to effectively participate.  Please encourage to take advantage of the 5 minute passing period to visit the restroom, drink water, etc.

**GRADING INFORMATION:**
Students enrolled at ASU Preparatory Academy will receive two letter grades in each of their courses. One of the letter grades is an **academic grade** demonstrates student mastery of the course objectives. The second grade is an **effort grade** that reflects attendance, participation, discussions, or completion of practice assignments. Both of the letter grades will adhere to the following grading scale, but only the **academic grade** will be reflected on the student’s final transcript and included in the grade point average.

A Exemplary 90 – 100
B Highly Proficient 80 – 89
C Proficient 70 – 79
D Partially Proficient 60 – 69
F Minimally Proficient 50 – 59

**CLASS MATERIALS:**

**Students MUST bring Chromebook to school daily - Please assure it is fully charged each night!**

* 1 Spiral Bound Notebook
* 1 Composition Book
* Two pencils with erasers
* Headphones for Chromebook
* Instrument\* (optional)

\*If the student owns an instrument, he or she may bring the instrument to class each day and use it for activities to ensure that they will have something to play that day. Students without a personal instrument may share the classroom instruments as they are available or use a virtual keyboard on their chrome book with headphones.

Students may request permission to leave instruments in the classroom during the day or overnight, and while Mr. Scolaro will make an effort to keep the room secure and the instruments untouched, individual students are responsible for any theft or damage of personal instruments left in the classroom.

**SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Please access this with your parent/guardian to record your acknowledgement.