Portland Middle School

Music Technology Syllabus 2017-2018

Grade 8

**Instructor**: Ms. Ketterer **Office Phone:** (860) 342-1880 x 3125

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This course is designed to explore the ways technology plays a role in music creation. Students will acquire basic audio editing/engineering skills, and create/arrange works using various technologies.

The course is broken down into the following units:

1. Garage Band Basics
2. SFX and Audio Recording
3. Working With Video
4. MIDI
5. Final Project

Students will begin by refreshing knowledge on Google Classroom, the assignment submission site for our class, and exploring the features of Garage Band, an audio editing program, to work on their basic editing skills. Students will learn through various projects how to manipulate loops and recordings using different effects and cut/paste functions.

In Unit 2, students will be introduced to SFX and audio recording. Students will use a combination of these to create a wordless story excerpt, and prepare for unit 3.

In Unit 3, students will build their editing skills with special effects and the addition of video to create their own backing for a short movie clip.

In Unit 4, students will be introduced to MIDI files, and will begin with these file types to digitally remix and re-master preexisting music works.

After Unit 4, students will begin working on their final projects. Students will use a combination of loop and sound editors to create backing for a movie trailer, or a podcast public service announcement.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- 3 Ring Binder or sturdy folder for handouts – ALL paper tests will be open note!

- Pen/Pencil

- (optional) your own headphones

- (optional) flash drive.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

If a student is in school the day they were absent from this class, they will be marked as *cutting* **unless a note is presented from a parent or teacher regarding the absence.** If you need to make up a test in another class for any reason, ask the teacher to please notify me.

**ASSIGNMENTS/TESTS:**

Every student is entitled to obtaining potential full credit for work received during a date of absence with an excuse note. Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher to request make-up work. The student must complete make-up work within the time specified by the teacher. The student will be given the same amount of time to make up the work as the student was absent unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon. The student will receive the actual grade of the make-up work if the absence was “excused”. Make-up work for “unexcused” absences such as cutting a class will not be accepted. In such case, a zero will be given for the participation and homework grade. Make-up work submitted late will receive a reduced grade.

**TARDINESS:**

You must present a pass if you are late to class. No exceptions. If you do not, or cannot, procure a pass from your previous teacher or have a medical excuse in writing, I will mark you tardy. You will be assigned detention if you are chronically late more than three times without a pass or an excuse.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The grading breakdown is as follows:

Daily Participation (attendance, behavior): 50%

Assignments/Projects/Final: 50%

**CLASSROOM RULES AND REGULATIONS**:

Students are expected to follow all school and classroom rules and procedures. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as delineated below.

Classroom Rules:

1. Raise your hand and wait to be called on.

2. Only one person may talk at a time.

3. Treat others with respect!

4. Food and drink is prohibited (with the exception of certain medical cases)

5. No electronic equipment (ie. Cell phones or iPods) may be in use. Electronics will be confiscated after a failure to comply with a verbal warning to put the item away/turn them off. See the student handbook for more details. Exceptions ONLY when given explicit permission from me to transfer files from one electronic to another.

If any of such rules are broken, the following consequences will be enforced:

1. Verbal Warning

2. Parental Contact and if applicable, confiscation of electronic device.

3. Detention and a write up

4. Administrative Referral