NWSA PIANO CLASS – HS PROFICIENT PIANO – HONORS LEVEL
Course Number 52752802
Mrs. Stonnell

Email: kristin.stonnell@cms.k12.nc.us
Class Web Page: https://bit.ly/northwestpiano
Booster Web Page: https://sites.google.com/view/nwsapianobooster
Weekly Tutoring: Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 pm (by appointment)

Welcome to piano class at Northwest School of the Arts! We hope that piano class will help students develop a useful skill that will enrich their lives long after they leave our school.

OBJECTIVES

In piano class, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of musical notation. Units to be covered include the circle of fifths, drawing all major key signatures, identifying minor key signatures, interval ear training, and identification of major/minor triads in root position and inversions.
- Continue development of correct piano technique, including posture, hand position, fingering, articulation styles, legato pedaling, and use of body weight to create variations in sound.
- Explore the history of the instrument and influential composers of its music. Time periods to be covered include Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, and Impressionism.
- Continue applying notation to the creation of individual compositions that use knowledge of chord structure to harmonize melodies
- Develop sight reading skills
- Develop ear training skills
- Participate in quarterly recitals during the school day (all students) and two evening recitals during the year (12/15/26 and 5/10/27 - as selected by teacher based on readiness and good academic standing)
- Participate in the National Federation of Music Clubs Festival at Wingate University if chosen by the teacher (2/27/27)

Please note that a greater emphasis will be placed on standard literature, performance, technique, duet/ensemble playing, and sight reading than in the beginning and intermediate levels.

MATERIALS

Students will need the following supplies for this course:

- **Alfred Premier Piano Course lesson book and performance book (purchased and paid for by school – see links below)**
- **Pencils (Enough to last the entire year!)**
- **Plastic 3-Ring notebook with dividers (1") - available to borrow, due back by 5/25/27**
- **Sheet protectors (for keeping sheet music secure)**

Thanks to the CMS Magnet Office, there is not a cost for headphones or lesson books for the 6th year in a row. However, all students are expected to help with fundraising (see "Bank of America Fundraising Participation" section for more information).

There is an additional learning cost fee of $75 for all piano students, which covers music theory/ear training software, apps, games, and digital music. Payment must be made with credit card through Cut Time. The due date is Friday, September 25, 2026 unless an arrangement has already been discussed with your music teacher and/or booster treasurer. Families who prefer a payment plan should reach out to the teacher for options.

Please note that students who advance to the next level of books during the year and have paid their class fee will be provided these materials at no additional cost.

If you are able to provide additional classroom support, please check out my Amazon wish list.

Just in case, I am including the recommended links for purchasing the required Alfred Premier piano method books. If your student has books from previous years and does not need to change levels, no action is required. All students will receive their book placements in class during the on-boarding days in August.

***Please note that you will only need the lesson and performance books!**

Alfred Premier Piano Course Level 2B
Alfred Premier Piano Course Level 3
Alfred Premier Piano Course Level 4
Alfred Premier Piano Course Level 5
Alfred Premier Piano Course Level 6

EQUIPMENT CARE

The piano department was extremely fortunate to receive 10 Yamaha Arius YDP-146 digital pianos from the CMS Performing Arts Department in July 2026. The NWSA Piano Booster Club purchased 6 additional Yamaha Arius YDP-146 digital pianos in August 2026. We are blessed to be able to provide our students with a beautiful new lab of instruments. It is imperative that all students treat lab equipment with respect and report any problems or possible damage to the instructor immediately. All students will be given an assigned piano to work on that they are responsible for. **Students who repeatedly play around on lab equipment will lose their playing privilege and be given alternate written assignments. PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE IN THE EVENT OF DAMAGE TO LAB MATERIALS BEYOND NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR!**

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS

When sending emails to your teacher you need to include the following:

- A clear subject line
- A properly formatted email ("Dear Mrs. Stonnell", use complete sentences, and a closing: "Sincerely, student name")
- All emails should be written in a professional and respectful manner. Remember you are emailing your teacher and not texting a friend.

Do not share documents with Mrs. Stonnell via email. All assignments need to be turned into Canvas unless otherwise indicated by the teacher.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Students should be at assigned pianos with materials when the bell rings.
2. Gum, food, and drinks (except water) are not allowed in the lab.
3. Students should play with headphones ON unless otherwise told by the teacher.
4. All piano bench legs must remain on the floor.
5. Students should refrain from talking during individual practice time.

Please note that any personal belongings such as combs, brushes, lotion, perfumes, make-up, toys, cards, video games, cell phones, etc. will not be allowed at the student's seat and will be taken away if seen during class! Chromebooks should only be used with teacher permission.

CONSEQUENCES

Excellent behavior and character is expected of ALL students in this course. In addition to the consequences outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, the following set of consequences will be enforced in this class:

- 1st Infraction - Warning
- 2nd Infraction - Phone Call
- 3rd Infraction - Bounced to Another Class
- 4th Infraction - Referral/Parent Conference

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken in each of your classes every day, including Homeroom. You are expected to attend all classes and engage in coursework following the established bell schedule. You must be present in class 51% or more of the scheduled time to be marked present. If you are unable to attend class, you are expected to contact the teacher to obtain assignments.

Please note that students who miss their regularly scheduled weekly lesson due to absence may need to submit a video of their practice progress in Canvas to earn make-up credit if time is not available in class. Per CMS Policy, all students have **five school days** following an absence to submit make-up work for credit. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the teacher to obtain any additional missing assignments! All make-up work must be submitted by 2:15 pm on the fifth school day following the absence to be accepted for full credit. **Failure to submit a video by the specified deadline for an absence will result in the student earning a "0" for that week's practice grade.** This policy applies to all absences, including excused absences, unexcused absences, field trips, and suspensions.

FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

High school students who meet the criteria below may be exempt from taking a final exam in a course that does not require participation in a state-required (i.e CTE) or End of Course Assessment:
Students with a grade of an 'A' (90%) or above and no more than 3 absences.
Students with a grade of a 'B' (80%) or above with no more than 1 absence.

Students have the option to take the final exam to improve their grade rather than the exemption. If a student chooses to take the exam, CMS grading practices are followed, and the exam counts for 20% of the student's final grade.

For students that have an undue hardship with attendance due to not having transportation established as a new MCV student or have a documented medical/health condition through an IEP or 504, the principal may exempt the student from participating in a non-EOC/state required final exam if the student has met the academic criteria.

Students who participate and complete Advanced Placement exams may choose to take the teacher-made final to include in their final grade for the class.

ACCESSING COURSE WORK

All class work will be posted through Canvas, the district-mandated learning management system. I will use the following guidelines for our Canvas course:
1. New assignments will be posted each Sunday at 12:00 am for the following week.
2. All assignments for the week will be due each Friday by 11:59 pm.
3. Assignments will remain open past the due date until the end of the quarter, but late work will receive lesser credit (see late work policy).

GRADING

Individual student progress will be monitored on digital checklists shared through Google. **Special solo pieces will be given only to those students whose work ethic merits it. All students are expected to continue working out of their regular lesson books on a DAILY BASIS. This is necessary to continue building reading skills! The teacher has the final say over any literature that the student performs. Students must meet minimum quarterly requirements in order to earn a passing grade for the year.** Students are expected to work to their maximum potential and will play for the teacher at least one a week, either through one-on-one lessons or submitting recordings!

20% Prepare (warm-ups, daily theory exercise completion, homework)
30% Rehearse (weekly lesson preparation, quizzes, Canvas work)
50% Perform (performance tests, written tests, recitals, projects, research)

Please click here for the CMS grading policy for the 2026-2027 school year.

** Students will earn a bi-weekly lesson grade that will be scored on a rubric. Only those students who are truly prepared for weekly lessons and show consistent progress will earn full credit. Students who do not show up to weekly lessons or submit video evidence of their progress will not receive credit. **Furthermore, students lose lesson points when they fail to meet established deadlines for learning solo pieces.** Excellent preparation for class is expected at all times!
**** All students are expected to remain in good academic standing. Continued poor grades may result in the student being removed from the class!**

AUDITIONED EVENING RECITALS

All students in proficient piano will be given two opportunities during the school year to audition for a seat on evening recital programs scheduled for 12/15/26 and 5/10/27. Due to the large number of students in the program and time constraints, participation is limited to no more than 20 pianists per recital. Being selected for these opportunities is a privilege and should be treated as such.

Students must meet the following criteria to be selected for evening recitals:

1. **No missing assignments in piano as of the audition date**
2. **A minimum score of 90% on the audition rubric**
    a. **The teacher reserves the right to raise the cut-off score if there are too many qualified candidates.**
3. **NO ISS OR OSS during the recital preparation window**
    a. **For example, students could not have ISS or OSS from October-December during the preparation window for the December recital.**

Only those students who are truly ready and meet all criteria will be given the opportunity to perform on evening recitals. ALL STUDENTS are expected to leave evening recital dates open and plan on attending unless otherwise told by the teacher! Those students who are not selected for evening recitals are still required to perform during the school day (see attached calendar for dates).

GRADING POLICIES AND LATE WORK

Students are expected to turn in all assignments and meet all deadlines (including performance-related tasks) by the specified due date. Late work will receive lesser credit, with a penalty of 10 points deduction PER WEEK late. The maximum score that a student can receive on an assignment submitted one week after the perform deadline is a “50 – F”.

If a student is absent on the day that a long-term assignment is due, the student must be prepared to submit their work on the day of his or her return to avoid late work penalties. This applies only to

assignments that were given prior to a student's absence. **Please note that any work not submitted by the specified due date will receive a score of "0" in the gradebook until it is turned in.**

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO EARN A PASSING GRADE IN PIANO

Students must sign off AT LEAST 2 songs each quarter from their assigned Alfred Premier lesson books to earn a passing quarterly average (average of 1 song every 4 1/2 weeks). Songs DO NOT include technical exercises as indicated on the digital checklist. Students who take private lessons have the option of working on other material for this credit, but must receive approval of the teacher first. Students are expected to sign off AT LEAST 8 book songs (2 per quarter) in order to earn a passing score for the year. In addition, students must also meet the following quarterly requirements.

- **Quarter 1: Students must learn and perform a selection from the National Federation of Music Clubs festival list in preparation for adjudication in February.**
- **Quarter 2: Students must learn and perform a winter solo for our recital in December.**
- **Quarter 3: Students must successfully memorize and perform a classical work by a non-American composer and a selection from the National Federation of Music Clubs festival list (learned in October). In addition to the school recital, students have the option of performing these selections for adjudication on festival day, scheduled for 2/27/27 at Wingate University.**
- **Quarter 4: Students must learn and perform a popular solo for our recital in May.**

CMS GRADING SCALE

90-100 – "A"
80-89 – "B"
70-79 – "C"
60-69 – "D"
59 & below – "F"

ACADEMIC PROBATION

At Northwest, it is critical that all students maintain acceptable grades in all of their core academic and arts classes. Students who fail two classes will be placed on academic probation at the end of the quarter.

Students placed on academic probation are ineligible to participate in any activity outside the regular school day or any activity during the school day that removes them from academic classes. Examples of these activities may include play rehearsals, non-curricular concerts/recitals, and field trips. Each student's academic standing is evaluated by the guidance counselors at the time of each report card distribution. A letter is generated by the student's counselor informing the student and his/her parents that the student is on academic probation. A list of all students on academic probation is compiled each quarter and conveyed to teachers in a confidential manner.

Students placed on academic probation remain on probation until the next report card date. If a student's grades have improved, their name will be removed from the list at this time. If a student has not improved the grade to a passing score, they continue to remain on probation until the next reporting period.

FIELD TRIPS

Students must maintain a final average of 70% (C) or higher in all classes to be eligible for participation in non-required field trips. All field trip opportunities in the piano department are non-required, which include both day and overnight trips. **Please be aware that trip refunds ARE NOT guaranteed should a student be removed from a trip due to failure to maintain a "C" average. Additionally, students who are suspended (either ISS or OSS) are automatically ineligible for participation in field trip opportunities.**

INFINITE CAMPUS/GRADE REPORTING

Parents and students are highly encouraged to check grades and assignments on a weekly basis through Parent Portal or Student Portal, a part of the Infinite Campus network. **Parent access instructions are available by clicking HERE**. Parent involvement is critical to student success, and I am always willing to discuss your child's progress with you!

TEACHER WEBSITE

- https://sites.google.com/cms.k12.nc.us/nwsapiano OR https://bit.ly/northwestpiano
- **This site will have updated information pertaining to the entire department as well as individual class pages with specific assignments. Please check it regularly!**

CUT TIME

We will continue to use CutTime as our fine arts management system for the 2026-2027 school year! I am confident that this program will simplify your experience in managing student participation in our program.

- **Stay informed** without login hassles
- **Get reminded** without inbox clutter
- **Expand your giving circle** with a personalized touch

Please take 3 minutes to watch this awesome introduction video and see what's in store for you.

What Happens Next - Your New CutTime Magic Link is On the Way

New students and guardians should be on the lookout for an SMS welcome message from CutTime via +1-844-385-8463. The message will come to your mobile device phone number we have on file for you via a 'Magic Link', which is uniquely personalized to you and secure. **Make sure to bookmark your Magic Link!** Once you receive the message with your CutTime Magic Link, you will gain access to your CutTime Portal Page where you can:

- View Announcements
- View and Subscribe to Events (such as rehearsals, games, performances, etc.)
- View and Sign Up for Volunteer Opportunities within events
- Check and Pay Account Balances
- Solicit Donations and Fundraise
- View and eSign Documents

If you do not yet have a mobile phone number on file with us - please share this information with us as soon as possible. If you are unable to do this, please contact us with your email address so we can ensure you receive your magic link. **Make sure to add additional parent/guardian contacts and update incorrect information if needed!**

Missed / Can't Find Your CutTime Magic Link?

No worries, you can go to: https://app.gocuttime.com/guardian/resend-magic-link to resend it to your device on file. (Note - your student must use a different spot to resend their magic link which is: https://app.gocuttime.com/student/resend-magic-link)

Hit 'Stop' and Opted Out of CutTime Magic Link Messages by Mistake?

No biggie, you can go back to your last message from CutTime and reply with 'UNSTOP' to resume the messages whenever you want.

Over the next year, we will see continuous new features, enhancements, and new services all hand crafted by a passionate team of former fine arts educators and booster leaders with incredible tech know-how. **For more information on what this change means for you now and what is coming**

next visit their Welcome Parents-Guardians page here. You can also check out this CutTime Cheat Sheet here.

PIANO BOOSTERS

We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderfully supportive Booster Club that supplements our program. Parents are encouraged and expected to join and participate. There are numerous ways to contribute to our program. **The annual membership fee for families who wish to join our booster club is $10, payable by credit card through the email link received after completing the membership form. Please click here to complete the online Piano Booster Membership Form**. All volunteer opportunities will be organized through the booster club, and ***every family is expected to donate time or resources to our growing program***.

Piano Booster Meetings will be held at 5:30pm via Teams on either the first or second Tuesday of the month beginning in September. Please note that half of the meetings are closed board meetings, while the other half are open to all piano families. The open meeting dates for 2025-2026 are *9/3, 11/3, 1/5, 3/2, and 5/4.

***Please note that the 9/3 meeting will be held in-person as part of the music department orientation event from 5:30-7:30 pm.**

Please bookmark the Piano Booster website: https://sites.google.com/view/nwsapianobooster

BANK OF AMERICA FUNDRAISING PARTICIPATION

Each student 16 or older in the piano program is expected to work at least one Bank of America event during the fall semester of the school year. If the student is not old enough to volunteer, a parent or other adult may volunteer instead. Every family is expected to send two volunteers (student/adult OR 2 adults) to one event to support the financial needs of our growing program.

Please note that the school district is only paying for essential items needed to participate in our program. Additional items may be needed for your student to participate in program events to enhance their piano skills and prepare them for recitals. The arts programs will have different fundraisers available throughout the school year to assist with payments for these additional costs.

Please click here to access the Bank of America page on my website, which will be updated with Sign-Up Genius links and other important information throughout the fall semester. Please also check the Charms for important documents and event dates. Questions about volunteering should be directed to Sarah Dodson, volunteer coordinator, at boa.nwsa.cab@gmail.com.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

Northwest School of the Arts expects nothing less than the best effort from all of our students. All Visual and Performing Arts magnet students in grades 6-12 are expected to fulfill minimum course requirements related to the magnet theme in order to maintain active status and to continue to the next grade level in the magnet program. Students must pass all arts courses they are enrolled in each year to remain at the school for the following year.

All parents of students that are in danger of failing or failing an arts course at Northwest will be contacted by the instructor in a timely manner to begin the MTSS process. MTSS is designed to help the student become more successful in the arts path that he or she has chosen. To facilitate this process, the teacher and parent(s) set up a conference to develop a plan with the student for increased support and continued monitoring of student progress.

Students who continue to fail arts courses jeopardize their future enrollment at Northwest. **Any student who receives a failing grade in an arts course at the end of the academic year will lose their seat at Northwest for not meeting the minimum magnet requirements.**

COMMUNICATION, QUESTIONS, AND CONCERNS

I look forward to working daily with the wonderful students in my program. I find great pleasure in teaching and am excited to begin another successful year together! Please know that I have an open-door policy: If you or your child ever has a question, comment, or concern, I encourage you to speak with me ASAP. **Email is the quickest and easiest way to reach me,** but also know that I am happy to speak on the phone or meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

I look forward to working with you this year!

Kristin Stonnell, Piano Teacher
kristin.stonnell@cms.k12.nc.us

Students must complete the *Online Student Information Form*, *Piano To-Do List*, *Syllabus Acknowledgement Form, and Syllabus Quiz* located in Canvas no later than Friday, September 4th.

Every Student must have all required supplies no later than September 4th.

$75 Piano Fee is due in Cut Time no later than September 25th.

2026-2027 PROFICIENT PIANO CALENDAR

September
3 - Music Department Orientation - 5:30-7:30 pm
25 - Class Fee ($75) due in Cut Time

October
26 (B-Day) - 27 (A-Day) - Quarter One Recitals During the School Day
***Recitals take place during individual class periods – specific times TBD!**

December
14 (A-Day) - 15 (B-Day) - Winter Recitals during the School Day for those not selected for December 15 evening performance
****Recitals take place during individual class periods – specific times TBD!**
15 - HS Proficient/Advanced Winter Recital (9th-12th) - 6:30pm Auditorium
****SELECT STUDENTS ONLY - those not selected for this performance based on poor grades/readiness will play during the school day!**
****Arrive at 5:45pm in dress clothes and meet in E-207 (piano lab)**

February
22 (B-Day) - 23 (A-Day) - NFMC Prep Recitals During the School Day
***Recitals take place during individual class periods – specific times TBD!**
27 (Saturday) – NFMC Piano Non-Scholarship Festival – Wingate University (8am-1pm)
***ALL Proficient Piano students STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to participate!**

March
23-26 - POSSIBLE Music Department Spring Trip (TBD)

April
30 (B-Day) - Deadline for seniors to apply for Piano Department Scholarship

May
7 (A-Day) - 10 (B-Day) - Pops Recitals During the School Day for those not selected for May 10 performance
****Recitals take place during individual class periods – specific times TBD!**
10 - HS Proficient/Advanced Pops Recital (9th-12th) – 6:30pm Auditorium
****SELECT STUDENTS ONLY – those not selected for this performance based on poor grades/readiness will play during the school day!**
****Arrive at 5:45pm in dress clothes and meet in E-207 (piano lab)**
21 - Masterwork Performance Public Show - 6:30pm - Auditorium
***ALL Piano students are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to attend!**

Piano Booster Club General Membership Meetings (5:30 pm via Teams): 11/3, 1/5, 3/2, and 5/4