

Saraland Middle School

Music Elective Explorations:

RHYTHM, SINGING, KEYBOARDS

Class Syllabus and Course Outline

Michelle Walker

Course Overview:

This course will provide students an overview of the opportunity to learn the basics of music theory, proper singing technique, playing the piano and other important skills of musicianship. This class is heavily based on participation in daily assignments. Grades will be based on written work, daily practice and performance assessments.

Materials:

- Pencil
- Notebook with paper (preferably three prongs w/pockets)
- Headphones (for use with Chrome books)

RHYTHM UNIT

Skills:

- Understanding of beat
- Reading whole, half, quarter eighth notes & rests
- Identify staff, measures, bar lines, bass clef, and treble clef
- Meter: 4/4 and 3/4

Activities:

- Drumming activities
- Rhythm games
- Rhythm Assessments

MELODY/HARMONY UNIT

Skills:

- Solfege scale & hand signs
- Basic sight reading with stepwise movement, Do-So
- Proper vocal technique (posture/breathing/warmups)
- Naming treble and bass clef notes on the music staff

Activities:

- Sight singing
- Warmup activities (posture-breathing-vocal warmups)
- Singing a variety of songs from various genres, cultures, etc.
- Orff instruments

KEYBOARDING SKILLS

Skills:

- Keyboard geography (high/low, steps/skips, etc.)
- Naming notes on the keyboard
- Playing a simple melody using 2 and 3 note groups
- Demonstrate various rhythms, dynamics and articulations
- Play a C5 finger scale.
- Introduction to intervals

Activities:

- Theory worksheets and online activities for naming the notes on the music staff and keyboard
- Group games to practice note & key identification
- Piano lab practice time & mini-performances
- Ear training activities

Student Expectations and Rules

1. Be Respectful

- Respect students, teachers and music equipment.
- Do not use your cell phone during rehearsal time. Students should keep phones in their backpacks.
- Encourage other students in positive ways!
- Speak when it is your turn and follow directions the first time they are given.

2. Be Ready

- **NO GUM, FOOD, CANDY, OR DRINKS OUT DURING REHEARSAL TIME! THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE!**
- Be ready to sing and prepared with materials! Bring a pencil and music folder (w/lined paper) to class every day.
- Be open to ALL styles of music- a positive attitude is contagious!

3. Be Responsible

- Take care of school and personal property, in this case, music, textbooks, rehearsal space and instruments.
The keyboards and other instruments are off limits to students, unless given PERMISSION to play during a rehearsal setting. **IF YOU BREAK IT (OR DAMAGE IT) YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PAY FOR THE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF THE INSTRUMENT!**
- Keep the classroom clean and organized.
- All Saraland City Schools rules and policies will be followed at all times. This includes uniforms, cell phones or other electronic devices, attendance/tardies, code of conduct, etc.

Elective Explorations: Music Class
Michelle Walker

PARENT SIGNATURE PAGE

(Please sign and return by Friday, August 15th, 2025)

I have read, understand, and agree to the objectives, grading procedures, classroom policies, and rules of Mrs. Walker's Elective Explorations class. I understand that I am responsible for taking care of my instrument and that I will be held responsible for payment if I damage or break the music room equipment.

Student's name: _____ Period:_____

Student's signature:_____

Parent/Guardian's name:_____

Parent/Guardian's signature:_____

**** PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. WALKER BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH****