



General Music Syllabus 2024-2025

Welcome to the world of Music!

Welcome to one of the most unique and exciting classes of your middle school experience! We will largely utilize pianos this year to learn general music practices and principles. I will work hard to fill this quarter with meaningful activities (jam sessions) and information designed to advance your knowledge of the musical world, specifically music literacy and keyboard instruments.

<u>Instructor</u> Benjamin Gibson benjamin.gibson@tcsedu.net <u>Favorite Instruments:</u> Highland Bagpipes and Ghanaian Djembes	<u>Student Supplies:</u> • Scribble Stick (Pen or Pencil, every day)	<u>Google Classroom:</u> • 6th – sxm4ocf • 7th – wfxsldy • 8th – frfcucw
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How to Succeed in Mr. Gibson's Classes:

- **Respect** the equipment: NEVER touch an instrument or materials that don't belong to you or that you do not have current permission to use
- **Respect** your peers: when they make mistakes, learn from them and let them learn too
- **Respect** yourself: Authorize yourself to learn and enjoy without being critical of yourself
- **Participate** daily. Please ensure you're not missing work, activities, or instruction.
- When you're with us, be with us. The phone, friends, lunch... they all can wait.
- **No gum, food, or drinks (except water with a lid) during rehearsal or classtime**
- Go to the restroom and get drinks prior to instructional/rehearsal meetings.

Grades

Let it be clear: I do not give grades; you earn them. Some people take music classes because they expect an easy 'A.' I expect diligence and dedication. I'm not out to ruin your G.P.A., but neither can I credit you for undone work. Here's how it works: **you try to succeed, and you'll succeed.** My grading can be broken up into three general categories:

- Participation 50%– You will be given 5 points a week upon entering the music room. How many you exit with is entirely up to you. Do you attend your daily class? Do you participate in your ensembles? Do you abide by class rules? Show up prepared and try, and you will earn these points. If you are absent for any reason, you may make up these points by submitting a practice video on Google Classroom.
- Assessments 25% – Pass-offs, quizzes, and tests will be done in class to assess and reflect on your growth.
- Assignments 25% – We may have theory notes and assignments that, if not finished in class, may be finished as homework. Music is its own language, and you need to learn it in order to be a musician.

1. Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Objectives and Goals

Deepen student's understanding of music generally by providing them with instrument and singing-based learning opportunities centered on pass-offs for the instructor and peers.

Standards

All TN Middle School General Music standards can be found at the following link between pages 184 and 194:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/art/Fine_Arts_Standards.pdf

Outline:

Week 1: Review and Instrument Introduction

Week 2: Intro to Chords and Melodies

Week 3: Scales, building on Chords and Melodies

Week 4: Introduction to ensembles

Week 5: Accompanying

Week 6: New Notes and Chords

Week 7: Strumming Patterns

Week 8-End of Quarter: Exploration and Creation