Hillcrest General Music II Course Syllabus 2015-2016
Ms. Blank, Director
Sharon.Blank@DVUSD.org
623-376-3377

I. Course Overview

General Music II is a quarter-long class that will build upon students’ musical knowledge and skills through increasingly complex experiences in singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, composing, and improvising. Students compare and contrast the functions of music and investigate the impact of musicians, music consumers, and music advocates on the community. Through musical experiences, students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship of music to history, culture, technology, and other fields of knowledge.

II. Class Materials

Students will need to have the following every day:

- 3-ring binder (may be shared with other subjects)
- PENCILS - NO PENS
- Notebook paper for note-taking
- Winning attitude. Yes. Really.

Arizona law requires that public schools provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply, at your discretion. If you have questions, feel free to contact the school.

III. Units of Study

We will be focusing on the following units of study. These are ongoing units that will be addressed simultaneously, as well as in individual units. Classes will include foci in the following areas:

- Music Theory/Literacy
- Performance
- Music History and Cultural Context
- Analysis, Evaluation and Critique
- Aesthetics

I. Fantasia2000 – composers and music history
II. Patriotic Music
III. Notation and Reading
IV. Instruments/History
V. The Science of Sound
VI. Soundscapes/Foley
VII. Fantasia Prime/ Ballet/Nutcracker
VIII. Ballet/Nutcracker

Students may expect to cover one unit per week including a weekly unit test or quiz; therefore, it is essential that students are present in class, pay attention, participate, take notes, study their notes, and take care of any makeup or absent work independently.

I will NOT seek you out to give you your makeup work, you must get it from me.
IV. Behavioral Expectations

You will find that the behavioral expectations in my room are significantly more demanding than in your other classes. I expect perfect behavior from each and every one of my students at all times. If you fail to meet these expectations, you will receive consequences. Any disruptions in my classroom will be handled using the MTSS-B process, and will usually result in immediate parent notification.

All District Rules will be adhered to at Hillcrest Middle School. Please refer to the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Students will adhere to three expectation statements:
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

Students will be actively held to these three statements using the MTSS-B (Multi-Tiered System of Supports- Behavior) four step process. MTSS-B is an HMS school-wide prevention program. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Specific guidelines are outlined in the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibility (SR&R) Handbook. The school rules apply coming to school, going home from school, and at all school-sponsored events. General misbehavior is handled by the classroom teacher in the following manner:

1) Universal Interventions (Warning/Redirection)
2) 1st Minor Incident Report with Interventions
3) 2nd Minor Incident Report with Interventions
4) 3rd Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Required Parent Phone Call
5) Major Behavior Referral

V. Classroom expectations

- When the teacher is speaking or any portion of the group is performing, talking is not permitted.
- Use of electronics is strictly prohibited.
- We are respectful of everyone else’s efforts and right to learn; we do not act disrespectfully or unkindly regarding the efforts or performance of others.
- Interfering with anyone else's right to learn or ability to work will not be tolerated.
- We bring all materials to class so that we do not inconvenience anyone else, or impede the group’s progress.
- Gum is not allowed in this classroom or anywhere on Hillcrest campus.

VI. Communication

- The fastest and best way to get a hold of me is through my district email at Sharon.Blank@dvusd.org.
XIII. **Grading Policy**

Students will earn grades in the following categories:

1. **Weekly Class Performance Grade** – Students must actively participate in the learning and musical process during the week to ensure steady and consistent growth throughout the quarter. Points will be deducted if students demonstrate behavior issues that disrupt the learning environment.
2. **Performance Assessments** – these will assess the necessary concepts and skills that students have acquired throughout the course.
3. **Tests and Quizzes** - This may include homework and classwork, as well as tests, quizzes and final exams.

**Absences:** **Students are responsible for contacting the teacher for makeup work or assessments.** Students have one day PLUS one more day to turn in makeup work or complete makeup tests/quizzes. **Late work will be subject to an automatic deduction of points.** Students absent three (3) or more consecutive days may contact the attendance office to arrange to get assignments. Since academic grades may suffer as a result of excessive absences, please don’t hesitate to contact me about special circumstances and I will make what arrangements I can. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain, complete, and return makeup work within the allotted time period. If students fail to obtain, complete or return makeup work, they will receive a “zero”.

**I do not assign extra credit.**
Hillcrest Middle School General Music
Course Syllabus Agreement

*Complete and return form by Friday, January 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2016 FOR A GRADE.*

By signing below, we

(Student Name – PLEASE PRINT) ____________________________________________

(Parent/Guardian Name – PLEASE PRINT) _______________________________________

affirm that we have read and agree to the policies listed below as described on the Hillcrest General Music Syllabus.

We agree that in order to earn full credit in all grading categories, all policies, procedures, expectations and timelines must be satisfied, and a failure to comply will result in a loss of points as described in the Grading Policy. By signing, we also indicate that

(Please initial each category below)

(Student)_______ (Parent/Guardian) ________ - We have read, understand and agree to the

Required Materials

(Student)_______ (Parent/Guardian) ________ - We have read, understand and agree to the

Behavioral Expectations

(Student)_______ (Parent/Guardian) ________ - We have read, understand and agree to the

Classroom Expectations

(Student)_______ (Parent/Guardian) ________ - We have read, understand and agree to the

Grading Policy

Parent/Guardian Signature

____________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature

____________________________________________________________________________

Parent Email

____________________________________________________________________________

Parent Phone Number

____________________________________________________________________________