

Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School Songwriting & Composition/Tech Class



Welcome to Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School. My name is Scott Wheeler, the choir director & drama teacher at Kinard. This handout/syllabus will help you understand what will be happening in the Intermediate music class at Kinard and should provide you with helpful information for the school year. swheeler@psdschools.org 488-5488

A New Side of Singing

This year our class is significantly smaller than years past; just 14 - 19 kids.

We will begin looking at vocal music in a different way. Rather than singing as a choir all year, we'll begin to look at more contemporary music (rock, pop, R&B, rap, hip hop, etc). Students learn about poetics as lyrics, music composition, songwriting, digital recording, and music technology. They're still singing, but as soloists rather than choristers.

We will be working on both composition/song writing as well as music technology. There are some free music tools available for your school computer so kids can work on their projects as homework. These are trusted sites and completely free (or for a small subscription) should you wish to download them on your home computer.

Wanna still hear your kids sing? I'm happy to send you recordings of their compositions and work throughout the year. Of course, you're always welcome in the classroom. Come on by!

We will still learn the entirety of the 7th grade Core Knowledge Sequence in Music.

www.kinardchoir.com

Modern Instruments

Most songwriters use a series of instruments to help them write and create their music. To give kids access to those tools, we'll be learning the basics of several instruments including guitar & ukulele, keyboards, and cajon (with a potential addition of trap set). If time permits, we'll also explore bass/electric bass.

This will be no means be a complete experience. This will only be a 'taste' of the instruments, giving the songwriters some basic chords, patterns, and techniques to 'whet the whistle'.

If they find an interest or love of the instrument, we can recommend private lessons with qualified professionals who can help your child really learn and understand the instrument.

Grades & Assignments

1) Rehearsal & Performance Assessments:

Students will earn a series of performance grades based on their work during class, participation in class performance, and demonstration of the knowledge/skills being learned.

2) Homework & Home Performance:

Students will learn how to use their laptops as a tool for rehearsing, recording, and uploading their singing. We use Google Classroom as a platform for home-to-school learning

3) Quizzes & Music Assessments:

Written assessments are administered to get a feel for your child's knowledge in music theory and music history aligned to the Core Knowledge Sequence

4) Late Work

Obviously, we expect all homework to be turned in on time. If you anticipate turning in an assignment late, PLEASE let me know so we can make arrangements

<i>7th</i>	<i>Aug/Sept</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>
Elements of Music & Skills	- Major Sequenced Scales & Intervals - Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Rhythmic Counting - Digital Recording & Editing	- Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Rhythmic Counting - Keyboard, Sharps, & Flats - Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting	- Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Keyboard, Sharps & Flats - Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting - Concert Prep	- Catch-Up & 1st Semester Written Summative Exam - 1st Semester Listening Summative Exam - Concert!	- Sightreading new pieces - Minor Scale - Order of Sharps & Flats in a Key - Signature - Music Careers & Podcasts	- Order of Sharps & Flats in a Key - Signature - Introduction to Key - Music Careers & Podcasts	- Key Signatures, Key, and Grand Staff - Review Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting - Intro to Song Structure & Songwriting	- Key Signatures, Key, and Grand Staff - Review Italian Terms - Chords (?) - Full Songwriting Project	- Review & Catch-Up + 2nd Semester Written Summative Exam - 2nd Semester Listening Summative Exam - Final Songwriting Project
Listening & History — Europe & Asia	J. Brahms <i>Symphony #1</i>	F. Liszt <i>Hungarian Rhapsody</i>	P. Tchaikovsky <i>1812 Overture</i>	H. Berlioz <i>Symphony fantastique</i>	E. Grieg <i>Peer Gynt Suites</i>	A. Dvorak <i>Symphony #9 New World</i>	M. Ponce <i>Estrellita</i>	R. Wagner <i>Ride of the Valkyries</i>	
Listening & History — The Americas	African-American Traditions <i>Blues, Work Songs, & Spirituals</i>	B. Smith <i>Nobody Knows When You're Down and Out</i> H. Ledbetter (Leadbelly) <i>The Midnight Special</i>	S. Joplin <i>The Entertainer</i> <i>Maple Leaf Rag</i> R. Johnson <i>Cross Roads Blues</i>	L. Armstrong <i>St. Louis Blues</i> <i>Potato Head Blues</i> <i>West End Blues</i>	D. Ellington / B. Strayhorn <i>Take the 'A' Train</i> B. Goodman <i>Sing Sing Sing</i>	E. Fitzgerald <i>Take the 'A' Train</i> <i>It Don't Mean a Thing</i> <i>Mack the Knife</i>	C. Parker <i>Now's the Time</i> D. Gillespie <i>Salt Peanuts</i>	D. Reinhardt <i>Nuages</i> M. Williams <i>Roll 'Em</i> M. Davis <i>So What</i>	G. Gershwin <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>
CK Integration	Music & History Review of Civil War (5th Grade)	Music & History Romanticism & Nationalism Early 1900s & The Blues	Music & History Romanticism & Nationalism 1910s, 1920s & Ragtime	Music & History Early Jazz	Music & History Big Band Music & English Poetry & Lyrics	Music & History Scat Singing & Vocal Improv	Music & History Bebop	Music & History Jazz & Its Variety (Swing, European, & Cool Jazz)	

Scott Wheeler - Choir/Drama Director

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