Beginning and Intermediate Piano Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2012-2013 School Year
Period 1, Room E-121

Instructor’s Name: Jamin Hoffman

Office Hours: 9:22 - 11:11 a.m. – please call for an appointment just to make sure that I will actually be in my office, and not running other errands!

Office Location/Phone Number: E-110; direct telephone number and e-mail address are given above

Enduring Understandings:
1. Students will gain an understanding of musical notation.
2. Students will learn basic music theory.
3. Students will develop their individual playing skills
4. Students will work cooperatively to play in an ensemble.
5. Students will develop effective practice techniques

Course materials:
Alfred’s Adult All-in-One Piano Course, Level 1 (Beg.)
Alfred’s Adult All-in-One Piano Course, Levels 2+3 (Int.)
Supplementary pieces
Three ring binder (1-1½ inches; specifically for this class, supplied by the teacher)
Pencils – bring one or more EVERY DAY!

Course description: This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. While playing, students will be working individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing and to learn pieces. There will also be time spent in group instruction on musical notation and theory.

Here are my expectations for Nicolet piano students:

1. Be on time – You should be in your assigned seat, with your materials, when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken promptly and tardies will be recorded. The third tardy will result in a detention.

2. No gum, food, or drink – Rm. E-121 is an unusual facility, housing both computer workstations and piano keyboards. This equipment is extremely expensive and needs to be treated with care.

3. Be respectful – I expect that all students will treat me, their peers, and the classroom equipment with respect. Because of the number of students in the class, we may need to share keyboards. Working together demands respect from everyone.
4. **Be a good listener** – This applies to both group instruction and individual playing time. When I ask you to listen, I expect you to stop playing immediately and listen to instructions.

5. **Use class time wisely** – This is a course that demands individual responsibility. You are expected to use class time to practice on your instrument, as it is not assumed that all students have a piano at home. Outside practice time may be necessary; practice facilities are available for use during lunch or study hall. Written work is to be completed neatly and on time.

**Homework and Assignment webpage:** I have set up a web page with assignments, class notes, and other pertinent materials for class – so no one need complain about not knowing about assignments or missing class notes due to absences! The web-site can easily be accessed from the Nicolet High School website; the address is:

http://www.nicolet.k12.wi.us/faculty/jhoffman/

**Grading:** Quarter grades are based on a number of factors, including classroom participation, attitude, and preparation; playing skills; written quizzes; and notebooks. Each quarter grade makes up three-sevenths of the semester grade; the semester exam is one-seventh of the final semester grade.

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<th>PTS./FREQUENCY</th>
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<th>2nd QTR.</th>
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**ESTIMATED GRADE POINT BREAKDOWN - PIANO CLASS**

*(Actual totals will vary due to varying quarter length and assignments)*
Outline of Topics to be Covered (time approx.):

Quarter 1:

week 1:  Getting familiar with the Keyboard Posture/Hands
         Pitch notation

week 2:  Rhythm notation
         Introduction to Scales and Chords
         Learn simple songs in the key of C Major
         Playing Evaluation #1

week 3:  Dynamic Markings
         Hand Coordination
         Playing with Other People

week 4:  More on Chords In Key of C
         Playing Evaluation #2

week 5:  Composition Assignment #1
         Music Notation Test #1

week 6:  Intervals
         Begin Playing in the key of G Major
         G Major Scale and Chords
         Playing Evaluation #3

week 7:  Spelling All Major Scales
         Sharps/Flats/Accidentals

week 8:  Middle C Position
         Dotted Rhythms
         Playing Evaluation #4

week 9:  Music Notation Test #2

Quarter 2:

week 1:  Circle of 5ths
         Key Signatures

week 2:  Spelling I, IV, and V7 chords
         Minuet in G
         Playing Evaluation #5

week 3:  Tempo Markings
         Articulations

week 4:  Composition Assignment #2

week 5:  Playing Evaluation #6
         Music Notation Test #3

week 6:  Playing in Other Keys

week 7:  Playing Evaluation #7
         Choose Recital Pieces

week 8:  Practice for Recital

week 9:  Practice for Recital
         Music Notation Test #4