

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Penquis Valley School

## 2010 - 2011

### Music Class Syllabus

Welcome to music class! In music class, you will learn all sorts of things about music. You will continue to learn how to read music, how to play various instruments, and learn about the history of music.

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**Website:** <[msad41.us/music](http://msad41.us/music)>

This website will be updated regularly with a list of homework or in-class assignments, with due dates, as well as the dates of quizzes (except unannounced quizzes) and tests.

#### Contact Information:

Mr. Michael Venti - Music Teacher  
Penquis Valley School  
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[mventi@sad41.org](mailto:mventi@sad41.org)

# Syllabus for Music Class

## Materials Needed:

a Pen or pencil to write with  
a Folder to keep handouts  
a Notebook for note-taking

## Curriculum:

**Unit 1 - Reading Music:** In this unit, you will continue where you left off last year learning how to read music. We will focus on rhythms, treble and bass clef notes, sharps and flats, key signatures, time signatures, and expression markings. You will have a final project where you will need to write in note names and count out the rhythms in a piece of music.

**Unit 2 - The Science and History of Instruments and the Human Voice:** In this unit, you will learn about the science of how instruments in each of the 5 instrument families (woodwind, brass, string, percussion & electronic) work, as well as how the human voice works. You will also learn the history of how the instruments you see today, in orchestras, concert bands, and rock bands, developed. This unit will conclude with a written test where you will need to correctly identify instruments, place instruments in the correct family, and answer questions about the science and history of the instruments and voice.

**Unit 3 - Instrumental Performance:** In this unit, you will learn, or continue to learn how to play a musical instrument. Band students can use their band instrument, students who own their own guitar can bring it in to play, and everyone else can learn to play piano, or keyboard. You will put your music reading skills to use and learn to play several pieces of music, as well as some scales and exercises. There will be no final test for this unit; you will be given a grade for each piece of music you learn, and those will be averaged.

**Unit 4 - GarageBand:** In this unit, you will learn how to compose electronic music using GarageBand. You will learn how to create new beats, how to mix audio recordings, and how to play melodies on a MIDI keyboard for use in GarageBand. For this unit you will have a final project where you must compose a written melody, play it into GarageBand using the keyboard, and mix it into a song using various loops and at least one audio recording.

**Unit 5 - Jazz:** In this unit, you will learn about what jazz is, what different types of jazz there are, who the most famous jazz musicians were, and the history of how jazz developed. You will listen to a lot of great jazz, and you'll even get to play some! This unit will end with a written test.

**Unit 6 - World Music:** In this unit, you will learn about all types of music from around the world. This will include all music that doesn't fall into classical or popular categories. This unit will end with a test based on the material covered in class.

**Unit 7 - The History of Western Music Before 1600:** In this unit, you will learn about how music developed in Europe before the Baroque period began around the year 1600. This will cover the Medieval and Renaissance periods in music history. This unit will end with a written test based on the material covered in class.

## Grading Policy

**30%** - Participation and Conduct in Class

**70%** - Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, and Projects

### Participation and Conduct in Class - 30% of grade

This portion of your grade covers 3 things: Attendance, Participation, and Conduct

**Attendance:** It is impossible to participate if you aren't present, so attendance is a key portion of your participation grade. You are allowed up to 3 excused absences from band, but after 3, your grade will be lowered **whether or not the absences are excused!** Exceptions to this rule can be made on an individual basis.

It is **Your** responsibility to make up missed work from an absence. If you are absent, see me as soon as you are back to get caught up.

**Participation:** This covers your active participation and contribution to each class. To participate well, you need to have all your required materials each class, and you need to be involved in whatever it is that the class is doing, whether it is note-taking, a discussion, listening to music, or playing instruments.

**Conduct:** This covers your behavior and attitude each class. You are expected to remain on task, follow all directions, and follow all classroom rules.

This is the rubric that will be used for your Participation and Conduct grade. The three individual grades will be averaged together.

	100	80-99	60-79	40-59	20-39	1-19
Attendance	No more than 3 excused absences, and no unexcused absences	No more than 5 total absences	No more than 7 total absences	No more than 8 total absences	No more than 9 total absences	No more than 10 total absences
Participation	Student has all materials needed, and actively contributes to each class	With one or two exceptions, student has all materials and actively contributes to each class	Student has materials needed and makes a generally positive contribution at least 80% of the time	Student has materials needed and participates in class at least 60% of the time	Student has materials needed and participates in class at least 40% of the time	Student has materials needed and participates in class at least 20% of the time
Conduct	Student is always on task, follows directions, and demonstrates leadership	Student is on task, and follows directions at least 80% of the time	Student is on task, and follows directions at least 60% of the time	Student is on task, and follows directions at least 40% of the time	Student is on task, and follows directions at least 20% of the time	Student is on task, and follows directions at least 1% of the time

### Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, and Projects - 70% of grade

This portion covers all the the work done in class. Everything done in class will be graded on completeness and correctness. Grades will be weighted as follows:

- 1x** - In class assignments and homework.
- 2x** - Quizzes and small projects
- 4x** - Tests and final projects

Once these grades are weighted, they will be averaged together.

### Extra Credit Opportunities

**Concert Review:** To earn credit for this, you can go to any concert or recital held at PVS that you are not a part of (if you're in band or chorus), or an approved concert elsewhere, and write up a review. In this review, you will need to write several paragraphs about what you think was performed well, what you think could have been better, and things you personally liked about the performance. You will need to cite specific examples in the music, talking about various elements of the music (rhythm, melody, harmony etc...). This review should maintain a respectful tone (constructive criticism), and should not include the names of performers. Your grade on this will be weighted as a quiz grade.

**Listening Analysis:** For this, you will listen to an example of music, selected by me, and you will write down a description of the different musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony etc...), and describe specific events in the music. These will be weighted as an assignment grade

**Other:** At various times throughout the year, I may present additional opportunities. Additionally, if you have an idea for an extra credit assignment, feel free to suggest it.

If you are interested in earning some extra credit, see me for details on any of these options.

### Classroom Rules

- 1.** No talking while the teacher is talking
- 2.** No talking when the class is playing instruments, singing, or listening to music
- 3.** If you have a question, raise your hand
- 4.** Any instruments or materials used in class must be put away at the end of class
- 5.** You must be prepared for each class with a pen or pencil, your notebook, and folder
- 6.** You must be in your seat and ready to learn when the bell rings
- 7.** Have Fun!

**Signature Page for Music Class Syllabus 2010 - 2011**

Parents/Guardians: Please sign and date this page, then detach it, and have it returned to me once both you and your child have read through and understood this handbook. Your child should then keep this syllabus in their folder. If you have any questions, my contact information is at the beginning of this book, please feel free to contact me.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read through this syllabus with my son/  
Name of Parent/Guardian  
daughter \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Name of Student

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date