

Music Appreciation Course Syllabus

Dr. Blackmon

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What to Bring DAILY to Class:

- Student Agenda
- Chromebook and Earbuds/Headphones
- Pencil & Paper
- **Positive Attitude ☺ (the MOST important!)**



Music Appreciation is a quarter-long (9 weeks) connections class focusing primarily on Musical Elements (such as rhythm, dynamics, etc...) and Music History. Music Appreciation is not a performance class; however, students will have an opportunity to learn more about the choral program which they may join beginning in 7th grade. Music Appreciation will also include an introduction to musical notation and instrument families. All students will complete and present individual composer projects. In addition, there will be optional opportunities to share favorite styles of music and individual talents within the class.

General Time-Line of Class Objectives:

(Note: Variations in the time-line may occur based upon teacher observation of student progress and needs, as well as assessments)

- Week 1: "Setting the Stage" (Welcome & Overview) / Pre-Assessments / Musical Element Focus: Rhythm
- Week 2: Musical Element Focus: More Rhythm / Discuss Composer Project / "My Music" Day
- Week 3: Musical Element Focus: Pitch/Notation / Music History Focus: The Renaissance Era (1450-1600)
- Week 4: Musical Element Focus: Dynamics / Music History Focus: The Baroque Era (1600-1750)
- Week 5: "Intermission" / Half-Way Project Checks / Optional Talent Share / "My Music" Day
- Week 6: Musical Element Focus: Tempo / Music History Focus: The Classical Era (1750-1825)
- Week 7: Exploring Instrument Families & Ensembles / Music History Focus: The Romantic Era (1825-1900)
- Week 8: Exploring The Voice & Spotlight on Chorus / Composer Project Presentations
- Week 9: "Closing the Curtain" / Post-Assessments / "My Music" Day

Music Appreciation Grading Scale:

Class Participation: 50%

Class Assignments: 25%

Project: 25%

Official current grades are calculated in Infinite Campus (not CANVAS). Honor Roll is determined by Q4 progress report grades.

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION...**Students are expected to participate fully in class activities and assignments. Students should NOT be working on other class work, reading, or engaged in other activities during instruction. **Each day will be worth "20 Participation Points" totaling a maximum weekly participation grade of 100%.**
- **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS...****Daily grades** are assigned periodically during daily class instruction for ongoing evaluation of skill development – advance notice of daily grades will typically not be given. **Quizzes** will be announced at least a week in advance. *Quiz grades will equal the equivalent of two daily grades.* **Late Assignments:** Assignments not turned in within 5 days of the due date will be eligible for a maximum grade of 70%. Extenuating circumstances/prolonged absences will be reviewed on an individual basis in order to determine fair expectations for completion and credit.
- **PROJECT...**Each student will complete a composer project using Google Slides which will be presented at the end of the quarter. Details about the project will be discussed during the first two weeks of class so that students can begin planning and preparing.
- **ABOUT YOUR TEACHER...**Franleata Sorrells-Blackmon has been teaching music at Madison County Middle School since January of 2002. Dr. Blackmon attended Converse College in Spartanburg, SC, where she received the Bachelor of Arts degree in music (piano) in 1994, and the Master of Education degree in 1998. In 2004, she earned the Educational Specialist degree in music education with an emphasis in choral music from the University of Georgia. In 2005, Dr. Blackmon was honored as the MCMS Teacher of the Year. She was selected to participate in the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Teacher Academy, Elite Class cadre 2005-07 and in the 2012-13 PAGE Teacher Leader Institute. Dr. Blackmon successfully defended her dissertation in the spring of 2017, earning her Doctorate in Education from Liberty University. She is a member of The National Association for Music Education (NAfME), The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA), and The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE). Dr. Blackmon enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and serving as a church pianist. She resides in her hometown of Comer with her husband, Jody Blackmon, and son, Stephen.

MUSIC APPRECIATION BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

You will be challenged to take PRIDE in all that you do at MCMS...in every aspect of student life, you will have expectations in each of these areas. The following are expectations specific to this class:

P <i>Prepared</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive to class on time and sit in your assigned seat • Bring your agenda, charged Chromebook with earbuds/headphones, pencil/paper, & positive attitude to class every day • Turn in paperwork and assignments on time
R <i>Respectful</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat everyone in class with courtesy and respect...earn respect by being respectful! • Keep hands, feet, objects, and disrespectful comments to yourself • Take care of the supplies, materials, and equipment you use in the classroom • Respect “teacher designated” areas, materials, and equipment in the classroom • Respect individual differences, preferences, and needs • Engage only in appropriate conversations with others • Volunteer to help others • Lift others up...don’t tear them down!
I <i>Independent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a good listener! • Follow directions • Know school rules and abide by them – if it’s a school rule, it applies in this classroom ~ ex: no personal electronics, no hats, no food/gum/drinks other than water (except on special designated days) • Use your quarterly passes wisely and appropriately • Always give your BEST effort
D <i>Determined</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay focused on the activity/lesson...do not work on other assignments, read or socialize during instruction time • Work cooperatively with others
E <i>Excellent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive for excellence in all that you do!! • Set high expectations for yourself! • Give 100% and always do the best that you can do!

Leaving the Classroom: All Houses/Academic Teams schedule restroom breaks prior to Connections, and students are encouraged to use the opportunity to take care of personal needs before our class period. Due to such a limited class time each day in Connections, students will be limited to **6 passes during the quarter. Only 1 student will be allowed a pass out of class at a time.** Students must bring agendas to class, as these are a school requirement for leaving classrooms. A specific card for music passes will be attached to your agenda and you must have open passes in order to leave the music classroom. (Exceptions only for students called to an office, going to the nurse, or rare emergency situations). Unused passes may be “cashed in” for rewards at the end of the quarter.

Tardies: Tardies without a pass will be marked in Infinite Campus. Too many could result in lunch detention, loss of break, or possible ISS.

Electronics: Per school policy, personal electronics cannot be visible, on or in use during school instructional hours. School issued Chromebooks should be used for instructional purposes only and with permission from the teacher. Unauthorized use of electronics may result in them being collected and turned in to the house office for appropriate disciplinary action.

Food/Drinks/Gum: In compliance with school policy, no food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the classroom. Gum is not appropriate, and can even present a safety risk, especially in a music classroom. Please DO NOT consume food, drinks, or gum in the chorus classroom except during special days designated by the teacher.

I strive daily to treat students with the upmost respect and courtesy in expectation of receiving the same in return. Appropriate behavior will result in various POSITIVE rewards and privileges the discretion of the teacher or team. Inappropriate behavior will result in negative consequences such as loss of break time, written assignments, parent contact, and for serious and/or habitual offenses, office referrals. Typically, a warning will be extended for the first offense. Each situation is different, and therefore, it will my job to determine the best course of action. Blatant disrespect, insubordination, foul language, and/or fighting will result in immediate office referrals. I always try to be as fair as possible when disciplining students and monitoring behavior. If someone else is behaving inappropriately, that does not give you to the right to do so. Just remember - YOU control your choices, attitude and behavior! Let’s stay positive and have a GREAT quarter together ~ Dr. Blackmon ☺

REMEMBER...Mustangs take PRIDE in everything they do!
BE Prepared, Respectful, Independent, Determined, Excellent