

**General Music Syllabus  
Columbia Central High School  
2023-2024**

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**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** General Music will have a unique opportunity this year to use the new instruments (guitar, keyboards, etc.) and will be using a course for recording with sound trap. Standards in this course are aligned with Tennessee State Standards for General Music. All assignments are aligned with Tennessee Academic Standards for General Music and will fall into the categories of: PERFORM-CREATE- RESPOND- CONNECT.

**Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts Education: General Music**

General Music 9 - 12 | GM This document represents the collective work of a team of educators from all regions of Tennessee and from all levels of music education, whose fundamental goal is to propose new music standards for the state of Tennessee. The new state standards endeavor to maintain the curricular integrity of music education across the state, build upon traditions of musical excellence established by the previous standards, foster creativity and artistry in all students, and empower music educators to provide a rigorous and relevant music curriculum that fully equips students with the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary for success in their future musical and nonmusical endeavors. Additionally, the writing team strived to ensure a smooth transition from the 1994 standards to the new state standards. The new Tennessee music standards are intended to mirror, but not replicate, the NCCAS Core Arts Standards. Primarily, the writing team made a purposeful effort to avoid curricular specificity within the new standards, understanding that circumstances differ from campus to campus, and that curriculum should be decided at the local level. Therefore, it is incumbent on the individual teacher to enhance and adjust curriculum to fit the specific needs of his/her instructional situation, while still adhering to the rigor and expectations of the standards. In addition, while the 1994 standards were structured and applied globally, without regard to content specificity, the new National Core Arts and Tennessee state standards are individualized to address the unique needs of general music, traditional and emerging ensembles, and music theory and history courses. Furthermore, the 1994 standards focused on the varied means in which people participate in or interact with music. In contrast, the new state standards are more specifically geared towards the processes by which people make music, including creating, performing, responding, and connecting. Concerning the application of the new state standards, what teachers used to call standards are now referred to as foundations that fall under the larger umbrella of the artistic processes. What the state used to call grade/course level expectations and student performance indicators are now called standards. (See the table below for clarification). Finally, the foundations within each artistic process propose an intended sequence from one standard to the next as a means of developing students' competency with each step of the process. 194 With specific regard to general music, application of the new standards will enable teachers to make a clearer delineation and differentiation between standards for performing ensembles and general music classes, understanding that, traditionally, students in middle and high school general music class are non-musicians whose lifelong participation with music is more geared towards recreational music and are often more fulfilled through responding and connecting than creating or performing. This is not to say that the new state standards for general music neglect to emphasize creating and performing, but to emphasize that these two areas are addressed differently in general music than they are in traditional and emerging ensembles. In addition, while the standards for many of the content areas include grade or level differentiation, this distinction was not applied to 9-12 general music. As of this writing, there is only one fine arts requirement at the high school level, implying that students who are not in performing ensembles typically take one general music class, rendering specified levels invalid.

**Materials:** Textbooks, handouts, and most materials are provided. Students will be using classroom instruments. Students will be asked to create a free account on the Sound Trap website. All students and guardians must sign the instrument contract to acknowledge responsibility/ and or replacement if they break or disfigure school/ or instructor property.

**Assignments:** We have two grades for each week. Weekly assignments will be posted in the teams app.

**Goals:** This course is designed to work to develop their musical and instrumental skills, creativity, and the student's own ear for music. We will learn how to read music, tablature, instrument care, and songwriting for a better understanding of music.

**COURSE STANDARDS:**

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/art/Fine\\_Arts\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/art/Fine_Arts_Standards.pdf)

**GRADE SCALE:**

A numerical average will be derived over the semester by dividing total points possible into total points earned by the student. Letter grades will be assigned based on final numerical averages in accordance with county policy. Please note that students will not receive a numerical grade over 100, because this is not an advanced placement course.

**EVALUATION:**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items:

1. Participation/Activities	70%
2. Tests/Skills	15%
3. Final Exam	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**MAKE-UP WORK:** When a student has an absence:

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete work missed during an absence.
- I am willing to work with anyone who cares about their grade. Come talk to me.

**CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Every student will be expected to conduct him or herself in a manner that does not interfere with the learning process. No one sits out or hangs back. You will not leave the classroom/auditorium without permission.

The following are important teacher expectations:

- LISTEN.
- BE PRESENT.
- PARTICIPATE.
- SAVE DRAMA FOR PERFORMING.
- NO SWEARING. NO NAME CALLING.
- Do not gossip.
- Be supportive of each other.
- Come to the teacher with any concerns.

- Sit in your assigned seat.
- You are not to record anyone performing or otherwise without their permission.
- Respect everyone and everything.
- Be mindful and do not pick up props, instruments that are not assigned to you.
- Be prepared to work. You must participate. No one sits on the sidelines
- Be prepared for class: Book, paper and writing instrument, computer.
- Complete all assignments and submit for grades by all due dates.
- NO PHONES ALLOWED unless we are working with them.
- There are no excuses for unsafe behavior.
- Students are to stay with class in classroom, on the main stage, and in auditorium and are not to wander to backstage areas or be out of sight during classes.
- All school rules apply.
- Any damage to property shall be subject to replacement or repayment. This document also serves as an instrument/materials contract. Without this signed document, students cannot participate in instrument usage and cannot touch instruments. Alternative work will be provided.

**DISCIPLINE:**

All students will be given a warning about expectations/rules upon first violation. Parents may be involved or called at any point regarding discipline or working on behavior solutions. Any further violations will be written up and/or sent to an administrator. All discipline issues will be recorded in a discipline journal that will be referred to later if violations continue.

**NOTE:**

The instructor reserves the right to change the course requirements to reflect the class's educational needs.

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**SIGNATURES: Both the parent/guardian and student must sign below indicating they have received, read, understand, and agree to the course's requirements and responsibilities as described in the syllabus.**

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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