

# Salem High School Beginning Piano

2024-2025

*Beginning Piano is designed to give students meaningful instruction in playing the piano if they have never played before, up to about 3 years of instruction. Occasionally, a more experienced player will enroll in the course, and as much as possible, the expectations of the course are differentiated based on the past experience and progress of the individual student. Students who successfully complete the course will be eligible to take Advanced Piano, or continue with private piano instruction in the future.*

## Instructor

This class will be taught by Mr. David Scheiber.

Email: [david.scheiber@sau57.org](mailto:david.scheiber@sau57.org)

Please feel free to contact the instructor with any questions.

## Google Classroom

The Google Classroom Code for Beginning Piano is jpwxc2. Students are expected to log into Google Classroom regularly, and parents and guardians/family members are encouraged to do so as well.

## Textbooks

The following textbooks will be used in this class, as frequent reference sources:

*Alfred Adult Piano Method, Book 1* (Provided, students may not write in this book).

*Practical Theory: Complete* by Sandy Feldstein (Provided, this is a consumable textbook and students may write in it).

## Grading and Competencies

Students will receive a letter grade at the completion of the course. The grade will be assessed based on grades in each of four competencies, whose weights are listed below.

Competencies in Beginning Piano are as follows:

- Perform – 40%
- Respond – 25%
- General Musicianship – 25%
- Create – 10%

Most assignments are assessed out of 5 points. However, larger, summative assignments are assessed out of 100 points.

Student grades will be updated at least every two weeks, and entered into Infinite Campus.

When an assignment is graded, anyone who has not turned in the assignment for any reason will have the assignment marked “missing” in Infinite Campus, to alert the student that the assignment still needs to be completed.

Generally, students are able to re-do assignments and assessments to improve their grade. Additionally, if a student does not submit an assignment on time, they may usually still submit the assignment after the deadline for up to full credit. Per school policy, if a student skips class, any classwork completed during that period will receive a grade of 0 and cannot be made up.

# Salem High School Beginning Piano

2024-2025

## Grading and Competencies – Continued

The minimum passing grade for this course is 60%, or D-.

NOTE: If there is a disagreement between a student's grade in Google Classroom and in Infinite Campus, the Infinite Campus grade is correct.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Unless otherwise indicated in writing from the instructor, the use of generative AI in this class for the completion of assignments will be considered Academic Dishonesty, and treated accordingly.

## Basic Elements

General Musicianship tasks will include lessons from *Practical Theory: Complete*. This will help students who are unfamiliar with notated music to begin learning this important skill. “Respond” tasks will include watching videos of piano performances, and answering response questions. “Perform” tasks will include playing scales in multiple keys, playing five-finger patterns in multiple keys, playing examples from *Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Method*, and playing songs using piano chords—including root position and inverted chords.

## Homework

As many students do not have a piano at home, homework is generally not assigned. However, students are encouraged to practice the piano at home, or at school during appropriate times (practice rooms are available during some lab blocks and after school). Additionally, some exercises, like “tabletop exercises” can be done outside of school, as well as any written work on Google Classroom. Additionally, non-playing assignments not completed in class should be completed as homework and submitted at the beginning of the next class.

## Materials

Students should bring to every class:

- pocket folder
- mechanical pencil (preferably 0.5mm lead)

A notebook is optional, but encouraged.

# Salem High School Beginning Piano

2024-2025

## Cell Phones

Beginning in the fall of 2024, the SHS cell phone policy has changed. The most important considerations of the new policy are that 1) a student's cell phone must be turned off/silenced and placed in a backpack at the beginning of the block. The phone must remain there for the duration of class. 2) If a student signs out of the room, or gets a pass to leave class, the phone must remain in the classroom. Failure to comply with this policy will be addressed accordingly, up to and including disciplinary referral. A "wall caddy" will be installed in the classroom. Any student, at any time, may choose to place their cell phone in the wall caddy. They may also be directed to do so at the discretion of the teacher. Some students may wish to use their cell phone to browse content related to playing the piano. As every station in the MIDI Lab has an iMac computer, they should use this resource instead.

## Final Words

This course is designed for students who want to improve their skills at the piano. The number of students in the United States who study piano privately decreases each year, and the number of adults who wish they had developed piano skills when they were younger continues to increase. Whatever a student's present level of piano achievement, the goal of this course is to advance a student's understanding and capability as a pianist.

## Important Dates

**August 28, 2024**

First day of Fall Semester

**January 23, 2025**

End of Fall Semester