

Course Outline: Musician's Workshop

Students in Musician's Workshop build authentic musical instruments or electro-music devices. Most steps in the "maker" process are included from cutting wood to soldering electronics. Projects may include any of the following: guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, drum, electronic effect/instrument, amplifier. Team-work skills are emphasized as students utilize planning strategies and incorporate interdisciplinary topics such as math and physics. Safe use of materials and tools are demonstrated and practiced before starting each step including eye protection, handling of tools and materials, long hair/ties/lanyards... and washing hands at the end of class.

Course Goals and Objectives

The main goal of Musician's Workshop is to construct a working musical instrument/device. Within this main goal are several sub-goals. They include: safety, planning, time management, and design. Additionally, hands-on skills are also emphasized: measuring, cutting, gluing, sanding, soldering, assembly, and finishing. It is suggested that students wear protective or older clothing during class, as they will work with solder, wood, glue, stain, etc. No students are allowed to use power tools.

Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions. Points are awarded based on assessment for *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100 A- = 90 – 92 B+ = 87 - 89 B = 83 - 86 B- = 80 - 82 C+ = 77 - 79 C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72 D+ = 63 - 69 D = 60 - 62 F = 0 - 59

Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Preparation and Participation: Students may earn 5 points each class session: 3 points for being present with all materials and/or prep-work from the previous session, and 2 points for actively engaging in current tasks/objectives as planned. NOTES: if the class meets only once a week, points are doubled. If a class meets as a full semester, students earn 3 points per class. Students who are not in class do not receive any points. However, *excused absences* can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to complete any missed tasks/objectives. Unprepared grades cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

Assessment: Students are assessed on design and function. Although there is no final exam, students continue to work on their device until it meets the function/design standards set at the beginning of the trimester.

Attendance: Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher's note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their "good standing" status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of "Incomplete" until credit recovery is completed in the summer.

Team Work: Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*.