

F.Y.I. for 6th Grade “General Music”

Teacher

Mr. Schneider

Email – Primary Form of Contact

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Class Location:

Room 170 – Band Room

Office Location

Rm. 171 – Next to Band Room

What we will learn:

In this class, we are going to approach and learn new musical concepts by looking at how they are used in songs throughout the world. We are then going to apply them to our own learning of how to play melodies and rhythms on the ukulele. By the end of the course, you will probably find yourself listening to music you would have never listened to before, understanding what makes different styles of music sound the way they do, and you will be able to read, write, and perform your own music.

What we will need to prepare for this class:

- Pens and/or Pencils
 - Pens will be allowed on certain projects, but the pencil is going to be our standard.
- 1 Folder with Pockets/Part of a Three-Ring Binder – A way to organize handouts.
 - Some loose-leaf paper inside this folder/binder would be perfect for taking notes.

How we will be graded:

Homework, quizzes, projects, and participation are all worth points which will combine to make up your final grade. Here is what each will be worth:

- **Being Prepared & Participating** (i.e.: Showing up on time and being active in class each day) – 50 Points Weekly
- **Desert Island Playlist & Group Projects** (There will be several projects throughout the course of the marking period to make up this grade) – 50-100 Points each, depending on the size of the assignment.
- **The Packet** (My version of a notebook check) – 100 Points, but points will be deducted for replacements or not maintaining your packet.
 - All of the handouts for this class will be given to you at once in this packet. This includes some pages you will have to fill out. You can store it in class where I show you, but take care of it! I don't want you to lose your work!
- **Homework** (i.e.: Turning in assignments when they are due and taking advantage of chances to make-up credit) – 10-20 Points each, depending on the size of the assignment
- **Quizzes** – 25-50 Points each, depending on the size of the assignment
 - These include Playing Checks, which are graded with a rubric which will be provided to you.

Rules we will follow:

This will be a fun and exciting course, but to ensure everyone has the same experience, we need to lay out some ground rules:

- Show respect to all people in the classroom
- Show respect to other people's property.
- Talk at appropriate times and use appropriate language.
- Take care of the school instruments and keep them in good condition for the next students.
- Demonstrate proper classroom behavior.
- Bring all needed materials to class (and leave distractions in your locker)
- Be seated and ready to begin when the bell rings.
- Obey all school rules.

Tentative Topic Schedule

This is the projected timeline of some of the Highlights for the course, however everything is subject to change. One thing that is guaranteed is that we will be learning about countless different songs and artists from a wide variety of genres.

Subjects Covered & Featured Projects

“The Desert Island Playlist” & How to Be a Better Listener

Ukulele 101 and Tuning Basics

Major and Minor Chords & Strumming

Reading Melodies & Playing Chord/Melody Duets

About the Ukulele:

In Spring of 2016, Monroe Township Middle School received a donation of 30 Makala Waterman Ukuleles to be used with our general music program which we have supplemented to handle larger class sizes. These are shared instruments and are NOT to be brought home. If a student has their own instrument at home, they are welcome to bring it in, however I cannot guarantee a safe location to store it and it will be the student's responsibility to care for the instrument during the school day. If a student or family is interested in purchasing their own ukulele, please feel free reach out to me for purchasing advice and help setting it up for the first time.

How you can succeed in this class:

Be prepared and come with an open mind. We will be exploring music from many different eras, styles, and cultures in this class. People share different interests across the world and whether we agree with them or not, it is our duty as learners to understand why they formed their opinions the way they did.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your grade, the topics we are learning, or the class, my door is always open and you can speak to me at any time. Please make sure you go through this with your parents/guardians so they know that we are ready to learn a lot and have some fun doing so!