



# Piano Class Handbook

Skyview Middle School  
2018-2019  
Harriet Jarmon, PhD

## Dear Parents and Piano Students,

Welcome to the Skyview Middle School Piano Class Program! I am happy to introduce you to our brand new innovative class at Skyview! With the great number of beginning students and tremendous talent in our school, this course will prove to be an amazing addition to our music department.

I have taught piano privately for over 30 years and hold a degree in piano performance. I am a very serious instructor when it comes to instrumental education but I am also very thoughtful and work hard to help my students succeed and enjoy the art and fun of piano performance!

In this Piano Handbook, you will find invaluable information to help you and your child have a successful semester. It is essential that every student and their parent/guardian reads and discusses this handbook at home, as it covers nearly all aspects of our piano program. After your discussion, please sign and return the Piano Handbook Agreement Form.

It is imperative that all piano students and parents read through and understand the handbook so that these budding musicians can learn to work together, follow guidelines, and take pride in what we are doing. Please consult this handbook in the future regarding our policies.

Students will receive a grade for the return on their handbook agreement form and for the completion of this information form.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

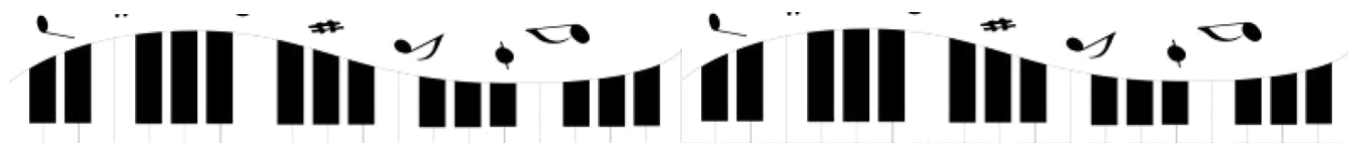
*Harriet Jarmon, PhD*

Vocal Music Director

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# Skyview Middle School Piano Class Program

## Goals & Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of musical notation.
2. Learn basic music theory.
3. Develop their individual playing skills
4. Work cooperatively to play in an ensemble setting
5. Develop effective practice techniques

## Course Materials

1. 8-Tab Plastic Dividers
2. Pair of headphones or ear buds
3. 1" Three ring binder
4. No.2 Pencils
5. 1 box Kleenex & hand sanitizer

## Course description

This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. While playing, students will be working individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing and to learn pieces. There will also be time spent in group instruction on musical notation and theory.

## Expectations

- 1. Be on time** – You should be in your assigned seat, with your materials, when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken promptly and tardiness will be recorded. The third tardy will result in a detention.
- 2. No gum, food, or drink** – The Music Tech Lab is an unusual facility, housing both computer workstations and piano keyboards. This equipment is extremely expensive and needs to be treated with care.
- 3. Be respectful** – I expect that all students will treat me, their peers, and the classroom equipment with respect. Because of the number of students in the class, we may need to share keyboards. Working together demands respect from everyone.
- 4. Be a good listener** – This applies to both group instruction and individual playing time. When I ask you to listen, I expect you to stop playing immediately and listen to instructions.
- 5. Use class time wisely** – This is a course that demands individual responsibility. You are expected to use class time to practice on your instrument, as it is not assumed that all students have a piano at home. Outside practice time may be necessary; practice facilities are available for use during lunch or study hall. Written work is to be completed neatly and on time.

## Behavior Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Written Referral

## Grading

Each 9/10-week grading period, the student's grade will be calculated from the following:

- **Weekly Participation Grades** – Students will receive full credit for arriving to class on time every day with their music and pencil and for actively participating with the group during class.
- **Playing Tests** – Playing tests on scales, piano music, etc. will be scheduled on a weekly basis.
- **Worksheets/Notebook** - Students will complete in-class or home learning handouts on musical terms, fundamentals, and theory. ALL worksheets will be kept in the student notebook.
- **Written Quizzes and Tests** – Students will complete tests or quizzes on musical terms, fundamentals and theory.

## Homework & Assignment Webpages

Written assignments will be given as reinforcements in conjunction with the lessons in the eMedia software. My website contains links to sites used in class, resources for student use, and also has class notes, and other pertinent materials for class. Please bookmark my website as you will be able to find all of the resources, handouts, and performance information:

<https://hjarmon.wixsite.com/website>

## Care of Music

All sheet music and/or books, except those bought by the student are property of Skyview Middle School and must be treated as such. Marks may be made in pencil only. If a student loses or ruins an original piece of music, it is his/her responsibility to pay for replacement.

## Use & Care of Piano Class Equipment

All students in piano class are expected to use the upmost care when handling the digital piano equipment & accessories. Any student who intentionally damages the equipment or uses a lack of caution when handling it will be required to pay for damages or repairs. Students who inappropriately handle the equipment will lose the privilege to use the equipment & will suffer a grade reduction.

## Piano Recital

All piano students will perform in two Piano Recitals – Christmas and Spring. Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

- Christmas Recital – December 11, 2018
- Spring Recital – May 05, 2019

Students are expected to look refined and professional when performing on stage. Students are to wear business casual or semi-formal attire at their Piano Recital. No jeans or t-shirts are permitted! Girls wearing dresses or skirts must come below the knee while sitting.

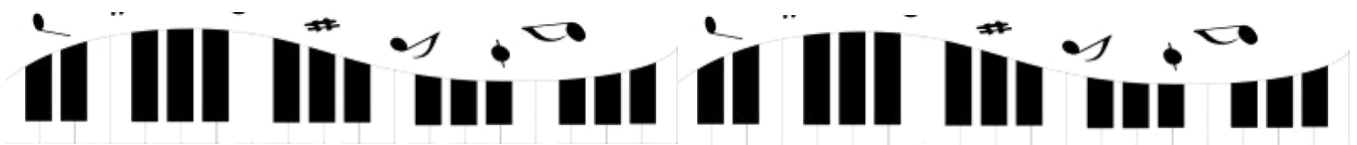
## Attendance Policy

In Piano class, the daily work that is done is in preparation for the final product—our performance of the music. **PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. Any pre-arranged absences from a performance must be reported to Dr. Jarmon before May 10, 2018. In case of an emergency, please contact me by phone or e-mail immediately. Unexcused rehearsal or performance absences will result in students receiving a failing grade for the performance.

## Field Trips

I try to schedule a field trip every year so that my students can share their gifts and talents outside of the school setting. We take our trips to the most forgotten members of our society – Senior Citizens! We love visiting our Seniors and they always love having the kids come and there is never a dry eye after their performance. This year our field trip will be held at the Holiday Retirement Center on the following date below. Field trips are NOT mandatory; however, students who remain at school will be required to complete a classroom assignment.

- December 07, 2018



# Skyview Middle School

## *Piano Handbook Agreement Form*

### ***THE PIANO CLASS STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT***

Proficiency on a musical instrument, including the voice, takes time and effort. Being in the Skyview Piano Program is not merely an "activity" - it is a lifestyle, a commitment, and an academic endeavor. You are about to embark on an exciting, important experience that you will cherish for the remainder of your life. You will make new friends, devise new goals, and enjoy success through hard work.

Contained in this packet are rules, guidelines, and expectations that you will agree to follow. Below you will sign a contract that will state your acceptance of the contents of this packet. Should a conflict arise between piano and another school activity, sport, community activity, or a job, you will be expected to remain committed to the piano program. Your grade depends upon it. Remember, this is a performance-based class – Performance is key!

#### **Student Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the Skyview Middle School Piano Handbook and agree to all of the material therein. I understand that all expectations and consequences will be carried out, if deemed necessary. I will always give an honest effort to support the Skyview Middle School Piano Class Program and I will be present at all required piano events.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Parent Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the Skyview Middle School Piano Handbook and agree to all of the material therein. I understand that all expectations and consequences apply to my child. I will always give an honest effort to support the Skyview Middle School Piano Program and I will always provide my child with the means to attend required events.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_