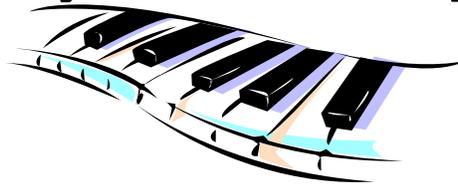


# Wheeler High School Keyboard Workshop



Welcome to Keyboard Workshop. I am excited to share piano, my first and favorite instrument, with you.

## Supplies

The school has provided keyboards for class use. These keyboards will be available after school for extra practice upon appointment, or may be checked out for use during study hall. We also have some donated instruments you may take home.

Students must come to class with a pencil and headphones. The textbook must remain in class; students may photocopy pages for at-home practice if necessary. Alternately, students may purchase their own copy of the textbook if they would prefer. The book is available on Amazon and other vendors. I'm happy to place an order for a student.

**If a family is considering purchasing an instrument, feel free to discuss with me!** There is a vast range of quality out there. It's possible to get a long-lasting, high-quality keyboard for relatively little money, but a low-quality instrument will be uncomfortable to play and more prone to damage. I would be happy to offer advice in any situation to help you find the best value for your money. Also, try out the instrument before purchase to see how it feels.

## Attendance

All relevant school policies apply. If a student misses one day, all Playing Tests for the week must still be performed by the due date. Upon more than one absence in any week, the student can arrange with instructor to make up material after sufficient practice time. I assume that some students do not have access to a piano outside of school, so I provide generous extensions when a student has excused absences from school.

## Assignments and Assessments

Each student will receive a weekly list of graded objectives. If a student begins class with some piano experience, or finds themselves moving through the material rapidly, he or she may move ahead in the material. After the accelerated student completes all proscribed coursework, the player may select extension projects in collaboration with the instructor. My goal is for graded assignments to form a basic foundation, from which students can grow into whatever goals are most meaningful to them.

Every week, there will be at least one **Playing Test**.

The pieces selected for Playing Tests reflect the content covered in class.

These pieces will be graded on the following areas:

- Technique: 5 points
- Rhythm: 5 points
- Pitch: 5 points
- Specific Concepts from Unit: 5 points

These playing tests may be performed one week late for a loss of 3 points, or two weeks late for a loss of 10 points. Playing tests may be played for me live, or recorded and submitted via email. Playing tests will also incorporate ensemble skills, composition, and recording technology during select units. Playing tests may be re-attempted at any time until the close of grades for an improved score.

Additionally, most units will include a written quiz or project, addressing concepts covered in class. Content of the quizzes and playing tests will be announced ahead of time, and will be administered on Fridays or the last day of the week.

The Rehearsal Skills grade reflects the student's success in participating in class music-making activities.

### **Grading**

**A weekly unit will typically have these opportunities for points:**

- Playing Tests – 20 points
- Written work – 10 points
- Rehearsal skills – 5 points

### **Academic Expectations**

Each Playing Test performance will be assessed on the school-wide **Communication** rubric, reflecting the student's ability to communicate musical ideas through piano performance. The Communication average will be reported on the students' semester academic expectations report.

### **Communication**

All parents and students should feel free to contact me at any time.  
E-mail is best: [bennettc@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:bennettc@northstonington.k12.ct.us); [CarolynBennettMusic@gmail.com](mailto:CarolynBennettMusic@gmail.com).

