

High Desert Middle School  
Music Appreciation for Middle School  
Mr. Vic Afetian  
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### **Course Overview:**

This 20-week course provides middle school students with an in-depth exploration of four major music genres: Classical, Jazz, Country, and Blues. Students will engage with video performances, historical content, hands-on activities, and assessments designed to deepen their understanding and appreciation of these genres.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key characteristics and elements of Classical, Jazz, Country, and Blues music.
2. Understand the historical and cultural contexts of each genre.
3. Recognize and appreciate the contributions of significant artists in each genre.
4. Discuss the evolution and influence of these genres on modern music.
5. Develop a personal appreciation for a variety of musical styles.

### **Grades:**

All assignments/projects: 50%

Assessments: 40%

Participation: 10%

### **Daily Materials for Success:**

Daily Planner

Composition Book

Pencils and Pens

Color Pencils & Glue sticks (optional)

Loose-leafed lined paper (college-ruled preferred)

Syllabus (provided by teacher)

### **Late Work Policy:**

*Students may turn in late work. However, they will lose 10% of their grade for late work*

### **Absent Work Policy:**

Students have as many days as they were absent to make up missing assignments without penalty. If completed immediately, there is no penalty for missed work due to an absence. If not completed immediately, the late work policy applies.

### **Hawk POWER:**

1. Always **Positive**. Attitude can make all the difference in the classroom
2. Take **Ownership** of our Learning. Learning is in your power. Be the best you can be and take pride in what you may learn.
3. **Working** toward our goals. It can be fun to set goals. Strive to be the best you can be.
4. **Empowered** to reach excellence. All students can achieve excellence by completing the daily work and activities.
5. **Respecting** our differences. Respect each other, all the time and everywhere you go.

**Habit 1. Be Proactive.** Arrive to class prepared with Planner, Pen/Pencil, Paper, and Binder with assignments so you may get full credit. Arrive on time to class before the tardy bell and sit in your assigned seat. Go to the restroom between classes. When absent, be sure to get the missing assignment and complete it. Class is dismissed by the teacher. Remain in your seat until permission is given.

**Habit 2. Begin with the End in Mind.** Be prepared with all the materials (Planner, Paper, Pen/Pencil). Set short-term goals for each day and each week. Set long-term goals.

**Habit 3. Put First things First.** Enter the classroom, sit in your assigned seat, write down the Learning Target and answer the questions(s) from the board.

**Habit 4. Think Win-Win.** Try to do your very best even when it is challenging. Be respectful to others and their abilities in the group.

**Habit 5. Seek First to Understand.** Then to be understood. Listen to and read all the instructions when given. Write down all notes during instruction. Remain seated and quiet during instruction. Be respectful to peers and visitors when they enter the room. Listen quietly to guest speakers.

**Habit 6. Synergize.** Work together as a group. Understand that each person is valuable and be respectful to all in the group.

**Consequences.** The Discipline Policy established for High Desert Middle School will be followed.

**Parent Support.** Look in your student's Daily Planner for assignments and notes from the teacher. Aside from online grades and Google Classroom, this is our daily communication tool. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_