

## **Course Description for Music Lessons (*Music 2520*)**

Mr. Higgins' Studio  
*2017-2018 Academic Year*

This program is open to all students who participate in one or more of the school's performing organizations. The Music Lesson Program offers, at no extra cost, individual or small group instruction to concentrate on the individual technical and musical needs of the student as well as to enhance training received in the school's performing organizations. Students will meet with a member of the school's music faculty once per cycle during the school day. When scheduling music lessons, the music department will try to match students with the faculty member best suited to their needs.

### Time Requirements:

- Since this course meets only once per cycle, all students must be in attendance and punctual. The following will be in effect:
  - ▣ Five (5) points off the quarterly grade per lateness, with the exception of one, to be excused.
  - ▣ Excluding legitimate absences, two unexcused (2) missed lessons will result in a maximum 70 for the quarter.
  - ▣ Excluding legitimate absences, three unexcused (3) missed lessons will result in a maximum 55 for the quarter.

### Materials Needed:

- Students must bring their instruments and a pencil to each lesson.
- Students might be required to purchase a method book through the department as well as bring all of their ensemble music to each lesson. Students should keep their sheet music in a folder that will lie flat on a music stand.
- Students are encouraged to keep a journal highlighting the important points of each lesson to use as a reference tool.
  - Students should also use this journal to record any problems or questions that arise while practicing to address at their next lesson.
  - Students should regularly write positive comments and reflections.
  - This journal will be used at each lesson as a tool for improvement.

### Musicianship:

All students must exercise the fundamental tenets of musicianship.

- Students will be required to practice for a minimum of one hour per day that they have an instrument available to them.
  - ▣ Each student must practice with both a short and long term goal-oriented approach on a daily basis.

- ❑ Remember it is better to break up your practice time throughout the day.
- ❑ The bulk of a student's practice time should be earlier in the day rather than later, as practicing an instrument is a physical activity.
- ❑ Students should schedule regular practice times.
- ❑ Practicing is a good habit to have!
- ❑ Students should note that that the school has individual practice rooms available to them for use during the school day.
- ❑ Daily practice is vital to the student's success.
- ❑ Practicing cannot be accomplished by "cramming."
- ❑ Practicing is equivalent to daily homework in any other class.

#### Goals:

- ❑ To further increase the level of technical skill through individualized attention and individual practice.
- ❑ To heighten the level of responsibility and respect (including respect of the composer, self-respect, sense of accomplishment and pride) through goal-oriented instruction.
- ❑ To reach the highest attainable level of musicianship.
- ❑ To work with a mind towards polished public performances.
- ❑ To thoroughly enjoy making music due to individual growth.

#### Grading:

- ❑ Students will receive a grade for each quarter.
  - ❑ The quarterly grade will reflect each student's work ethic and realistic growth and can include evaluation of the lesson/practice record, all based on the instructor's observation.
- ❑ At the end of the year, students will be required to perform a final exam of music assigned in advance. A verbal self-assessment of the student's musical year can also take the place of the final.
- ❑ The final grade will be an average of the quarterly grades (attendance, participation, playing assignments) and the final exam grade.

- ❑ If a student does not show at least minimum effort and progress, they will be advised verbally and are in danger of having an academic deficiency report sent home.
- ❑ Students will be expected to adhere to the rules and regulations of St. Francis Preparatory School as outlined in the school calendar, including the Honor Code. Students must display proper respect at all times to their teachers, their classmates, and most importantly, display self-respect in their attitude and their work.

Conferences:

Students are encouraged to see Mr. Higgins if they feel they are having any difficulty in regard to their lessons. Time will always be made to give extra help or speak with a student at mutually agreeable times. If students are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade, they will be notified by Mr. Higgins as well as having an academic deficiency report sent home.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who are concerned about their child's performance are encouraged to speak to Mr. Higgins at Parent/Teacher interviews, by phone at (718) 423-8810 x255 or by e-mail at [jhiggins@sfponline.org](mailto:jhiggins@sfponline.org).

Dear Mr. Higgins:

I have read the course description for Music Lessons (Music 2520) with my child and understand the requirements for the class. I also understand that my child will be held accountable for all aspects of the St. Francis Preparatory School Honor Code as described on page four of the school calendar.

If I have any questions, I am aware that I can reach you at the school at (718) 423-8810 x255, e-mail at [jhiggins@sfponline.org](mailto:jhiggins@sfponline.org), or see you during parent/teacher conferences. I also understand that you are available at mutually agreeable times to meet with my child if s/he has any questions or difficulty.

Students and parents should note that this course is a yearlong commitment that involves diligent and thorough study. Music offers many important tools to the student. Aside from the intrinsic value of playing an instrument, students will be exposed to the arts, develop a strong work ethic, and a concept of long and short term goal setting. Students will also develop problem identification and solving skills and time management skills.

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

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

Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_