

2019-2020 Modern Strings/ Sound & Recording Technology Handbook & Syllabus

Welcome

Welcome to the very first offering of Modern Strings/S&R Tech! This is a 2-part course which will teach you methods of performing modern music using modern instruments, as well as the ins and outs of sound technology. This handbook contains important information that you will need for this year's course, including department policies and expectations. Please be sure to read completely and carefully.

Facilities

Class will take place daily in A122. Students will also have periodic practice/recording sessions in the individual practice rooms in the music suite. Materials such as instruments, microphones, cables, etc. will be kept in the guitar office. Students will be assigned materials such as instruments, equipment, etc. that will be theirs to use for the duration of this class.

YOU CANNOT TAKE INSTRUMENTS/EQUIPMENT HOME WITH YOU. You will be given ample practice time each week to practice what we have learned. If you do have instruments at home, feel free to bring them in! Instruments from home can be safely stored in the guitar office.

It is expected that students will take care of their shared space, keeping it clean and neat, as well as the equipment in that space. Misuse of the space or equipment can result in the loss of certain privileges as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC SUITE.

Class Expectations

- Come prepared to class with all necessary materials (Folder, agenda, notebook, pencil, etc.)
- Gum, food, and drinks are prohibited during class
- Be attentive, listen to/follow instruction
- Participate in class discussion and practice to the best of your ability
- There will be specific times you are asked to use phones/laptops in class. Otherwise - KEEP CELL PHONES AWAY.

Behavior Expectations

Music students tend to be the cream of the crop, and are often assumed to be well behaved. As members of the music department, students are expected to behave in the following manner:

- Serve as positive examples for the rest of the student body
- Act respectfully towards fellow students and faculty
- Show respect for property and equipment of others and of the school
- Be responsible and dependable
- Come to class ready to learn
- Follow through with your commitments year-round

Additionally, smoking or use of any drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited at any Music Department function. Violations may result in the immediate expulsion of the student from the program and/or the loss of any awards, festival/trip participation, etc. The high school principal will be notified and apply any further disciplinary action required.

Homework/Practicing

In any creative medium, the best way to learn is through practical experience. This can mean going over what you already know, or experimenting and trying new ways to apply your skills. You will be given plenty of in-class time to practice and experiment in both halves of the year. Practicing in class will only do so much however, therefore you have a couple options available to you for additional practice for class.

In-school practicing:

For extra practice time, students may only come to the music suite during a study hall, and **MUST** have a pass from a music teacher (it doesn't necessarily need to be Mr. H). Getting the 'ok' from teachers elsewhere is not acceptable. While you are in the music suite during a study hall, you are expected to **WORK**. You will be asked to return to study hall if you cannot stay on task. Students wanting extra practice time may also utilize the practice rooms in the music suite after dismissal until 3PM.

Guitar Club:

Modern Strings students are encouraged, though not required, to become part of the school guitar club. The guitar club gathers to practice 1-2 times weekly, and puts on several shows throughout the year, performing anything from folk to modern pop. Keep in mind – if you join guitar club, you *will* be expected to participate in performances.

At-home practicing:

Unfortunately, you are not able to take home school equipment with you. However, if you do have equipment at home, daily practice will only help you progress faster and farther – perhaps even beyond what is planned for this class. If you do not have equipment at home, but are interested in purchasing your own, talk to Mr. H about what to look for – whether you're looking for something cheap or something that will last.

Some practicing tips:

1. Practice in a place where you will not be distracted.
2. Practicing more often for less time is generally more productive and will yield better results than practicing less often for more time. (i.e. practicing 20 minutes every day vs. practicing 2 hours every Saturday)
3. Start with clear goals in mind. Do not just play through your music in 'autopilot mode.' Say to yourself what you intend to improve or accomplish, and work towards that goal.
4. If you are having difficulty with a certain part of your music, break it up into smaller bits and slow it down. If it keeps giving you trouble, move on to something else, but be sure to come back to it.
5. Vary your practice session by working on several different things. Working on a single passage or even a single piece for half an hour can be hindering and frustrating.
6. Do not just practice what you already know how to do. Try new techniques, work on what you have been struggling with. Try to make some intentional progress, rather than just regurgitate what we've done in class.
7. Practice how you would perform! Play with correct technique, proper posture, etc.

Class Overview

This is a tentative schedule of what we will be doing through the course of this class. Keep in mind you all are my guinea pigs for this class, so this schedule may change as we get a feel for what works and what doesn't.

First Semester – Modern Strings:

- Week 1: History of Stringed Instruments
- Week 2: First instrument – getting started
- Week 3: Flatpicking scales & melodies, Reading tablature vs. notation
- Week 4: Open chords, strumming patterns
- Week 5: Open chords & strumming continued
- Week 6: Chord progressions – Major and Minor
- Week 7: Barre chords & Capos
- Week 8: Application & Practice Week– playing real songs
- Week 9: Practice Week – QP1
- Week 10: Bass, Electrics, & Equipment
- Week 11: Switch instruments – getting started over again
- Week 12: Flatpicking scales & melodies
- Week 13: Open chords, strumming, and fingerpicking
- Week 14: Open chords & fingerpicking continued
- Week 15: Barre chords
- Week 16: Application & Practice Week– playing real songs
- Week 17: Practice Week – QP2
- Week 18: Practice Week – QP2

Second Semester – Sound & Recording Technology

- Week 1: The Science & History of Sound Technology – Digital vs Analog
- Week 2: Microphones and speakers – How do they work?
- Week 3: Live Sound – sound boards and mixing
- Week 4: Mixers and DAWs – beginnings of mixing and loops
- Week 5: Music Theory Lite – basic notation review
- Week 6: MIDI and Music Notation Software
- Week 7: Recording and mixing
- Week 8: Work week – QP3
- Week 9: Work week – QP3
- Week 10: Other important equipment – Headphones, portable sound, etc.
- Week 11: How to Shop – building your own home studio
- Week 12: Basic Repair and Care
- Week 13: The Modern Music industry
- Week 14: Basic Songwriting – Music Theory and Form
- Week 15: Work Week – QP4
- Week 16: Work Week – QP4
- Week 17: Finals probably – Continued Work Week – QP4
- Week 18: Finals probably – Continued Work Week – QP4

Quarterly Projects

In lieu of midterms or finals, your progress this year will be judged by 4 major projects – one to finish each marking period of school. Each of these projects will apply what you have learned so far in a practical way – the way you would use these skills in the real world.

QP1 – Individual: You will be asked to learn and perform a song’s rhythm part along with a recording on either guitar or ukulele.

QP2 – Groups: You will be asked to learn and perform a song in a group of 2 or 3 WITHOUT a recording. Your small group must consist of: a lead guitar/uke to play melody, and a rhythm guitar/uke player to play chords. Groups of 3 should also include a bass player.

QP3 – Individual: You will be asked to cover and record a song using the skills you have learned up to this point. At the minimum, you must have at least 4 tracks: 1 drum track, 1 bass track, 1 rhythm track, and 1 melody track. Of these tracks, at least 1 track must be recorded, 1 must be written with Midi, and 1 must be assembled from GarageBand Loops. You may add additional tracks or loops as necessary to make the cover your own. You may play the song exactly as it goes, or you may change the style or genre as you see fit, but it must be recognizable.

QP4 – Groups: This is where you will have the most creative freedom all year. You and your group will be asked to use any and all of your musical skills to write a song. The song can be of any genre, and can have any instrumentation beyond the minimum requirements of Drums, Bass, Rhythm, and Melody. You can have a voice part with lyrics, or it can be purely instrumental. You will write and record this song using any combination of recorded, midi, and loop tracks.

Grading Policy

MS/S&R Tech grades are tentatively based on the following:

- Daily class attendance/participation: 5 points daily
- District-required quarterly writing samples: 15 points each
- Classroom/Homework assignments: 10-25 points
- Quarterly Projects: 100 points

Daily/sectional participation rubric: In order to receive full credit for class participation, students are expected to do the following:

- Come to class prepared and on time with all necessary materials
- Participate fully in all class activities
- Follow school/class rules and expectations at all times
- Apply musical concepts and skills to the best of ability

Contact

Mr. Hollenberg can be contacted the following ways.

- Email: jhollenberg@indians.k12.pa.us
- Phone: (570)648-5731 ext. 3424
- Remind app: text @music-tech to 81010 or enter class code @music-tech in Remind to register for text announcements.

***NOTE: Students must now have parental permission to use Remind.**

Please fill out all requested information. Sign and return this page to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the attached information. Additionally please fill in all requested information where able.

- I give my permission for my child to use Remind for the purpose of class reminders and announcements. (check box if yes)
**CLASS CODE: @music-tech

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Preferred Phone

Parent/Guardian Preferred Email

Additional Phone (if applicable)

Additional Email (if applicable)

What instruments do you already play? (if any)

What music groups are you involved in? (Both in and out of school)

What do you listen to? (Favorite music genres, songs, albums, etc.)
