

Syllabus

Elementary Music

Heritage Academy
A University-Model® School

Heritage Academy is a certified, University-Model® School that partners with Christian parents to prepare college-worthy, character witnesses for Jesus Christ.

I. Course Purpose and Content

Elementary Music is an introductory music class. The focus of this class is to provide your child with many enjoyable experiences in music and opportunity to learn and develop a variety of music-related skills. Through singing, playing, listening and reading, your student will experience the various elements of music. In class, your student will be introduced to various styles and kinds of music. Your student will have many opportunities to excel in musical performance, reading music and musical literature, and evaluating musical form with varying structures.

In class we will:

- Sing, play, and evaluate music
- Listen to classical music and hymns from various musical eras
- Identify ways in which music can be used to worship God
- Learn to sing on pitch
- Play the recorder and other instruments
- Perform singing activities that will help your student to grow in sight reading, pitch-matching, and harmony performance
- Learn to sing solfege and sign pitches

II. Worldview Integration

Scripture is filled with references to music (Gen 4:21, 2 Kings 3:15, Isaiah 12:2, Acts 16:25). Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, music is closely associated with worship (2 Samuel 22:50, Romans 15:9). The Israelites made music part of their civic celebrations (Exodus 15:1), their victories in battle (1 Samuel 18:6), and their times of distress and depression (1 Samuel 16:17). The Bible also speaks of music as a means of personal enjoyment (Lamentations 5:14).

Our God is a God of wisdom and purpose, and living according to his wisdom leads to health. Students need a firm foundation of musical knowledge if they want to make wise musical choices in their own lives. A careful study of music and exposure to good music will develop musical taste and aid the discerning ear in approving those things that are excellent (Philippians 1:10). Teaching students to recognize the true, honest, pure, and lovely (Philippians 4:8) assists them in becoming skilled and joyful worshipers and artists who point to the goodness and manifold wisdom of God.

Man is the image-bearer of God (Genesis 1:27). Mankind expresses himself (thinking and feelings) through the arts (1 Corinthians 14:15). As we sense the beauty and order in a piece of music, we can sense the beauty and order in the nature of God.

III. Required Texts/Materials

A book for this course will be lent to each student by the teacher. Students may be asked to purchase a recorder in keeping with specifications communicated by the teacher. Estimated cost for the recorder is around \$10.

→ Please also see Heritage Academy's Course Supplies List (viewable on the school's website) for the current year to know the specific supplies your student will be responsible to have for this course.

IV. Course Guidelines/Student Requirements

A. Attendance

Attendance is imperative as concepts will be more difficult for the student to learn if he/she is absent. Students are expected to attend class and contribute positively to the classroom environment.

Tardiness is disruptive to other class members. Please arrive on time and prepared. All absences and tardies are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a note from a parent or guardian. Please remember that three tardies generate one absence.

As communicated in Heritage Academy's Family Manual, a passing grade awarded at the end of the semester generally requires that an elementary student has attended at twenty-eight class periods for an elective class during the semester. Failure to meet this minimum attendance requirement may result in an *Incomplete* being awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

B. Absences and Late Work

In the case of planned absence(s), homework that is due during the student's absence must be completed and submitted to the instructor in advance.

When a student is unexpectedly and unavoidably absent due to ill health, past-due assignments must be submitted within two course periods after the student's return to school. **When an unexpected absence must occur, please be sure to notify the school office and the instructor of the student's absence as quickly as possible, preferably before the involved class occurs. This contact may occur by phone or by email.**

Late work that is submitted simply "late" will be graded and penalized with a **ten percent grade reduction for each course period that it is late**; homework will not be accepted more than three course periods (1 week) past its due date, unless previous arrangements between the teacher and the student's parent have been agreed to in light of peculiar circumstances that are occurring beyond the family's control.

C. Home assignments will be recorded on the Weekly Communication Sheet your student will receive in class each Monday. Students are expected to complete their home assignments prior to the next class period. Your student will spend about 30 minutes daily Monday – Friday on their homework. Most homework will include singing with a CD that has been prepared for class and for practicing with the recorder. Students will also have worksheets, small projects, and activities to do at home. The assignment sheet will clearly communicate my expectations. Please contact the instructor if instructions are unclear. Home assignments will be enjoyable activities you can share in with your student.

D. Assessments: We will have in-class assessments designed to reflect our learning activities. Assessments will include singing performance, recorder performance, and may also include short, occasional written quizzes and tests. Students will receive credit for in-class and public performances as indicated in the Grade Apportionment section below.

E. Grading

All students will be receiving progress reports during the semester. Grades will be based on participation and attitude.

Grading Scale

(+)..... **Excellent**

(v)..... **Satisfactory**

(--)..... **Needs Improvement**

V. Parent Responsibilities

A. Embrace the University Model

University-Model Schooling at Heritage Academy is driven by two guiding principles:

- ◆ to preserve and strengthen God-ordained family relationships;
- ◆ to offer students the opportunity to achieve a high degree of academic excellence.

Heritage Academy operates as a University-Model School[®], designed for families who want their students to flourish from a life anchored in the home yet still gain from the best aspects of traditional, classroom education. Courses offered at Heritage Academy occur every-other-day so that students may realize the benefits of qualified teachers and a focused learning community, yet continue to experience home as the primary, consistent base where parents remain their foremost guides for spiritual, social, academic, and character formation.

Parents, please consider ways you may maximize the benefits University-Model Schooling offers to your family. How can you as parents utilize the at-home study time this model provides to nurture deeper relationship and model and impart the faith, values, and life-patterns you desire your student to embrace?

B. Fulfill the Parent Role

University-Model **parents commit to fulfill a specified role related to the course** in which their student is enrolled. Each role identifies specific responsibilities that the teacher relies on the parent to perform, thus facilitating effective home/school partnership whereby students are assured of receiving needed support. For this course, Heritage Academy has designated parents the role of **“Private Tutor.”**

Courses involving this role are made successful because each student has a private tutor (the parent) at home, who is willing and ready to assist. Parents will receive instructions from the classroom instructor on a regular basis outlining homework assignments, follow-up study/instruction over covered material, and any preparation or review needed for their child’s next class.

C. Monitor Gradelink and View Seven-Week and Thirteen-Week Gradelink Reports

As your student earns grades for completed tests, quizzes, and various projects and homework assignments, these will be recorded on **Gradelink.com** for you to view at your convenience. My general goal will be to post grades online within a week of their being awarded.

In Gradelink, missing assignments will also be noted. Please take time to follow your student’s progress on Gradelink so that you can quickly recognize and explore/address areas of patterns of difficulty or concern that may appear and affirm positive accomplishments.

Gradelink Reports, which will include parent-directed comments related to your student’s behavior and progress in class, will be ready for parents to view at the seven-week and thirteen-week point in the semester.

Please contact the office if you have not received your Gradelink login information.

D. Attend Parent/Teacher Fellowship

I hope you will take time to come to Parent/Teacher Fellowship scheduled during the 7th week of each semester. This will give you and I brief opportunity to connect face-to-face and discuss your student’s progress, making the most of the partnership that is so vital to students’ success within the University Model[®].

VI. Contacting the Instructor

Teacher contact information will be provided on the weekly communication sheets that will be distributed in class or may be found in the school directory.