



**Arvida Middle School Piano Handbook**

2020-2021

*David Gonzalez*  
*Piano Teacher*

### **A Note to Parents**

We are glad to welcome you and your child to the Arvida Middle School's Piano 1 Class! With the great number of students and tremendous talent in our program, this will prove to be another great year for our program.

In this Piano Handbook, you will find important information to help you and your child have a successful year. Please read through this handbook and help your child understand its contents. It is strongly recommend that you store this handbook in a safe place where you can easily access it throughout the year. Please refer to it before contacting the director with questions, as you may find the answer you need in the piano handbook. The director is always happy to answer your questions, but his priority is in devoting the maximum amount of time and energy into meeting the daily needs of his students. Efficiency, therefore, is a very valuable asset.

Again, it is essential that every student and their parent/guardian read and discuss this handbook at home. **After your discussion, sign and return the Piano Handbook Agreement Form by Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as it will be counted as a grade.**

Welcome again to the Arvida Piano Program. We are looking forward to a great year!

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### **Contacting the Director**

Mr. Gonzalez is available to meet the needs of all students in the Arvida Middle School Piano Program. Please do not hesitate to contact him if you have questions or concerns not addressed in this handbook. Mr. Gonzalez receives a large number of phone calls and emails on a daily basis, so please allow at least 24 hours for a response to messages.

David Gonzalez  
Piano Teacher  
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dgonzalez1024@dadeschools.net

### **Program Philosophy and Objectives**

Mr. Gonzalez is committed to developing a well-rounded, expressive student musician, who demonstrates a heightened sense of personal/social skills, which include: team work, promptness, responsibility, conduct, and effort. These students will be able to demonstrate piano proficiency through performance and practice. They will demonstrate music literacy in relation to reading music, as well as expressive and stylistic nuance associated with a piece of music. Furthermore, students will demonstrate characteristics associated with good musicianship including, tone, posture, rhythmic accuracy, piano care and maintenance, and social and conduct skills associated with performing ensembles. Specific classroom objectives are derived from the NAFME National Standards for Music Education and are also cross-referenced using the benchmarks outlined in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

There are several key goals for student success in the Arvida Piano Program. Students should:

- Perform proficiently on their instrument individually and with others.
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances as an informed listener.
- Develop an understanding of our musical heritage and recognize the importance of music in our culture.
- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline by working as a team member.
- Build citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with teachers & peers.
- Build a framework for the lifelong appreciation of music.

### **Absence Procedures**

Piano is a performance based class that requires the participation and attendance of every student. Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in performance-based piano classes. The daily work that is done by students is in preparation for the final product — our performance of the music.

If it is absolutely necessary to miss a piano event, Please contact Mr. Gonzalez at least 24 hours prior to a scheduled rehearsal and at least 3 weeks prior to performance. Unexcused absences may result in a lowered grade, loss of privileges, and/or reassignment to a different part.

An absence from a performance or rehearsal will be considered excused if the absence is due to illness (doctor's note required), family emergency (illness, death, etc.), religious observance, or certain school-related schedule conflicts. Non-school activities and transportation arrangements are not considered excused absences.

In case of an emergency, please contact Mr. Gonzalez by phone or e-mail immediately. An email or voicemail must be received prior to the rehearsal or performance to be considered excused.

Every student is important to our success, and we cannot teach an empty chair. Please do not schedule non-emergency doctor appointments and similar events during your child's piano class or other scheduled rehearsals and performances.

### **Ensemble Description**

Piano 1 is open to all 6th-8th grade students at Arvida Middle School. No previous playing experience is required. In Piano 1, students will focus on proper playing technique, major scales, and piano repertoire. They will also learn the basics of music theory, ear training, and music history.

### **Classroom Rules and Consequences**

Rules are designed to keep our classroom a safe, happy, and positive environment for learning. Strict disciplining and immediate consequences will be implemented when rules are broken.

#### *Rules:*

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Respect others and their property at all times.
3. Raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak.
4. Be on time to class.

#### *Consequences*

1. Verbal Warning
2. Detention and Parent Contacted
3. Referral

## **Rehearsal Etiquette and Classroom Procedures**

Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsal. A piano student will never perform better than it rehearses, and efficient rehearsals will lead to successful piano players. There are a number of key factors that will help insure the success of our piano program. In general, these can be summed up in one sentence:

**Always be in the right place at the right time with the right materials and the right attitude.**

Specifically:

- Students will be on time for each virtual session with all their materials before each class begins.
- Students are to wait to be dismissed by Mr. Gonzalez at the end of class.

## **Required Materials and Textbook**

Students are to bring all required materials and textbooks to class every day. Failure to come to class prepared with these items will negatively affect the student's weekly participation grade.

All students:

- Pencil
- Black duo tang style folder with pockets and paper for note taking
- Pair of Headphones
- Bastien's Piano Basics Book, Level 1
- Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory Book 1

## **Grading Procedures**

Grades in Piano are calculated on a 4-point grading scale and will be calculated from the following:

- *Weekly Participation Grades* - Students will receive full credit for arriving to class on time every day with their music, headphones and pencil and for actively participating with the group during class.
- *Playing Tests* - Playing tests on scales, piano music, etc. will be scheduled on a weekly basis.
- *Worksheets* - Students will complete in-class or home learning handouts on musical terms, fundamentals, theory, and history.
- *Written Quizzes and Tests* - Students will complete tests or quizzes on musical terms, fundamentals, theory, and history.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the MDCPS percentages, as follows:

- A** 90-100%
- B** 80-89%
- C** 70-79%
- D** 60-69%
- F** 59% and below

If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade on a quiz/test, they will be allowed to retake the exam after speaking with Mr. Gonzalez and showing a considerable improvement and effort in practicing the exam material.

### **Absent Work**

If a student is absent from school, it is his/her responsibility to check with Mr. Gonzalez for the work that they missed. Students will only be allowed to make up the work they missed if their absence is deemed “permissible” (excused) on an “admit” given to the student by the Main Office. As per the “Code of Student Conduct”, students have three days to make up the work that they missed. After the three days, students will receive a zero for the missed work.

### **Homework**

Students who do not complete their homework the day that it is due are still responsible to still turn in missed work. Homework turned in after the due date will have the following grade deductions (1 Day Late = Minus 1 Letter Grade, 2 Days Late = Minus 2 Letter Grades, 3 Days Late = Zero Credit Given)

### **Piano Recital**

All piano students will perform in the end of year Piano Recital. The recital performance will be worth 10 grades. Students are expected to look refined and professional when performing on stage. Students are to wear business casual or semi-formal attire at their Piano Recital. If you have any doubts about an article of clothing’s appropriateness, please bring it in to school to have it approved by Mr. Gonzalez.

### **Care of Music**

All sheet music and books, except those bought by the student, are property of Arvida Middle School and must be treated as such. Marks may be made in **pencil** only. If a student loses or ruins an original piece of music, it is his/her responsibility to pay for a replacement.

### **School Piano Fees**

All students will be charged a music fee of \$10.00 and an instrument rental fee of \$20.00. This amount is required by the district and must be paid in order for students to participate in their piano class.

### **Chaperones/Volunteers**

Anyone that wishes to help the Arvida Music Program as a chaperone or volunteer must be a cleared, level 1 volunteer. To travel on overnight trips, a chaperone must be a cleared, level 2 volunteer. Anyone that does not pass a cleared volunteer number will not be allowed to volunteer or chaperone any school activity. Detailed steps to become a cleared volunteer can be found on the Arvida MS website.

### **CHARMS Music Office Assistance**

Arvida Middle School Band Program subscribes to the CHARMS Music Office Assistant software for managing various components of our music program. This software allows the director, student, and parents to track student information, forms turned in, fees paid, and much more. CHARMS is a secure program with information only accessible to the director. All of our communication will be done through Charms, so it is required that all parents/guardians log into charms to complete theirs and their student's profile. If you a returning student, please update your student and parent contact information using the instructions below. To access CHARMS, please follow the following instructions:

1. Using your internet browser, go to <http://www.charmsoffice.com>
2. On the home page click the LOGIN tab on the upper right hand side
3. Enter our school code, ArvidaMS in the space provided in the Parents/Students/Members section.
4. To access your student's account, enter your child's school ID number where it says "Student Area Password"
5. Click the "Update Info" icon at the bottom of the screen and fill in all of your student's information. Be sure to click the Update button on the left.
6. Click "Add New Adult" and fill in all of your contact information. Be sure to click the Update button on the left.

### **Music Stores**

All County Music\*  
17886 NW 2nd Street  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029  
(954) 441-2263  
[www.AllCountyMusic.com](http://www.AllCountyMusic.com)

Kendall Conservatory of Music  
7153 SW 117 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33183  
(305) 274-9207  
[www.KendallMusic.com](http://www.KendallMusic.com)



Miami Music Works  
11771 South Dixie Highway  
Miami, FL 33156  
(305) 256-1655  
[www.MiamiMusicWorks.com](http://www.MiamiMusicWorks.com)

Allegro Music  
6869 SW 8th Street  
Miami, FL 33144  
(305) 740-9400  
[www.AllegroMusicCenter.com](http://www.AllegroMusicCenter.com)

Arvida Middle School  
Piano Handbook Agreement Form

*Proficiency on a musical instrument takes time and effort. Being in the Arvida Piano Program is not merely an "activity" - it is a lifestyle, a commitment, and an academic endeavor. You are about to embark on an exciting, important experience that you will cherish for the remainder of your life. You will make new friends, devise new goals, and enjoy success through hard work.*

*Contained in this packet are rules, guidelines, and expectations that you will agree to follow. Below you will sign a contract that will state your acceptance of the contents of this handbook. Should a conflict arise between piano and another school activity, sport, community activity, or job, you will be expected to remain committed to the piano program.*

Student Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the Arvida Middle School Piano Handbook and agree to all of the material therein. I understand that all expectations and consequences will be carried out, if deemed necessary. I will always give an honest effort to support the Arvida Middle School Piano Program and I will be present at all required Piano events.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the Arvida Middle School Piano Handbook and agree to all of the material therein. I understand that all expectations and consequences apply to my child. I will always give an honest effort to support the Arvida Middle School Piano Program and I will always provide my child with the means to attend required events.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] My child and I have completed our profile on Charms.

Completed form and CHARMS profile due by **Monday, September 7, 2020.**