

# Calkins Road Middle School General Music Classes

Mr. Beel & Mrs. Jordan



Music classes are centered around music literacy through hands-on activities. Classes meet every other day for the entire year.

## **Sixth Grade**

Students learn rhythm counting and note reading skills. They apply these skills to the piano and guitar. Beginning piano students learn to play easy or moderate songs with left-hand chords. Advanced pianists are taught how to use their knowledge of chords to create their own original left-hand accompaniment parts and begin to chord by ear. On guitar, students start with simple melodies and then quickly move to three-string and six-string chords. Sixth graders will also use their keyboard skills when composing with Apple's GarageBand.

## **Seventh Grade**

Seventh grade music builds upon the skills developed in 6th grade. Students will learn to play more complex music on piano and guitar, as well as bass and drums. They will play a variety of music from the 20th century and every student will perform at an in-class recital in the auditorium. A main focus in seventh grade will be popular genres of the 20th century. We will ask ourselves, "How is music affected by society and how is society influenced by music?"

## **Students need the following materials every day:**

- Pencil (6<sup>th</sup> Grade only)
- Earbuds – One pair to leave in the music room. Bring in a zipper baggie labelled with name.
- A cooperative and enthusiastic attitude. Be ready to try new things!

## **ASSESSMENT** - Most assignments are scored on a four-point scale as describe below:

1	2	3	4
•Unacceptable or Incomplete work	•Needs Improvement	•Quality Work •Meets Expectations	•Outstanding Work •Well beyond expectations

Detailed rubrics with specific criteria can be found at: <http://www.pittsfordschools.org/webpages/jbeel/>

Scores will be posted on Infinite Campus. Please do not be alarmed if your student is scoring mostly 3s. A Score of 4 is reserved for superior work. Do not be alarmed if your student occasionally receives a score of 2 in some criteria. An occasional 2 is only a problem if it becomes a trend and the student is not showing improvement.

Below is a general guideline for how your final grade for a quarter will be determined:

Mostly 4's	A+
Mix of 3' & 4's	A
Mostly 3's	A-
Mix of 3's & 2's	B

We look forward to working with your student this year and harvesting their musical talents.

Mr. John Beel and Mrs. Kelly Jordan