

Music & Technology Class

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Music & Technology Class! My program focuses on helping develop student's technology skills along with exploring the use of the computer as a creative tool. When possible, an emphasis in sound and music is incorporated when appropriate. I have listed a few past projects below. Most assignments can be adjusted or extended to meet individual student needs and backgrounds. Be sure to read this entire handout as it also addresses student evaluation, parent responsibilities, and email/website communication. I look forward to meeting and discussing about the class in more detail with you at the parent "Back to School" night this year!

Project Examples

- All About Me – students create a slideshow about themselves using PowerPoint along with developing oral presentation skills.
- World Tour – students manage and become a part of a fictitious band. Students develop and are exposed to word processing skills, Internet research, art graphic design, spreadsheets and graphing data, and musical composition using a loop-based computer program.
- Keyboarding (Mavis Beacon) – students develop and increase their typing accuracy & speed.
- Scavenger Hunt – students learn how to effectively search for information on the Internet along with developing skills in validating website content. Students are introduced to using some of the advanced Google options such as spell check, dictionary, measurements & conversions, maps, filters, and more.
- Mystery Collage – students create a collage of pictures based upon a mystery theme which they then later turn into a website. Students learn how to download and manipulate images along with basic website design elements.
- Computer Animation – students learn how to create images on the computer using the software program Flash. Students then bring those objects "to life" by using a technique called *frame-by-frame* and *tween* animation.
- Nursery Rhyme MP3 – students create an audio file of a common nursery rhyme that includes complementary sound effects. Students learn basic skills involved in working with sound files.
- Virtual Fishtank – students learn how to use spreadsheets and graph data by collecting data through identifying variables and the use of scientific inquiry skills using an online virtual fishtank
- Miscellaneous – students explore a variety of topics such as robotics, air flight, digital camera, Google Earth & SketchUp, Windows MovieMaker, etc.

Grades

Students are evaluated in the areas of participation (30%) and achievement (70%).

Participation – Students receive 2 points on a daily basis for being on task, contributing in a positive manner, paying attention, coming to class on time, etc. Since students will be seen every other day they will receive a grade or score at the end of every two weeks (usually 5 class sessions).

Achievement – Projects and assignments are evaluated on meeting specific criteria based upon scoring guides. Since this is a class where curriculum is always being developed and refined, this part of your child's grade may fluctuate accordingly, depending upon the number of activities that we are able to cover in a semester, class size, available resources, etc.

Progress sheets are typically posted in the computer lab so that students can keep track of how they are advancing. Also, overall grades are published on a secure website that parents and students can access.

Class Materials

Headphones (mini-jack type) - Students should obtain and bring headphones (mini-jack) to class as needed. Some projects and activities throughout the year will require students to work with sound files in a quiet environment. Ipod ear buds usually work fine. Inexpensive mini-jack headphones can also be found at Dollar Tree, Radio Shack, and Best Buy stores. Please be sure to tag your child's headphones for identification purposes.

Parent Responsibilities & Email/Website

I use email and my website to communicate quite extensively with parents during the school year. You can access your child's current grade on-line and receive email updates, see information on what projects we are currently working on, class handouts & help sheets, evaluation criteria, etc. It is your responsibility to check the class emails and website as needed. Please be sure to include a legible email on the return form and to let me know of any changes during the school year.

To access the Music/Tech website go to the following:

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/east-west-sylvan/302.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me!

Thank you,

Mr. Michael Metz
Music/Technology
mmetz@pps.net
(503) 916-5560

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY FORM

(Please sign and return)

Please fill out and return the form below. **IMPORTANT:** I use email as a way to keep parents informed and up to date with what activities your child is learning about. Please include a legible email address (if applicable).

Student Name

Parent Name

Phone Number(s)

Parent Email(s)

Would you be willing to volunteer? Depending upon the activity, it can be helpful just to have another person to monitor students, transport students on field trips, etc. Feel free to list any special skills or experience you have that might be helpful and times you would be available.

- Yes
- No
