

Peasley Middle School
MUSIC EXPLORATION CLASS
2017-18 School Year

Instructor: Mr. Paul Otto

Email: potto@gc.k12.va.us

Website: <http://www.guitarpotto.com/peasleychorus>

Parents: Please sign and return the form at the end of this document.

I. Course Description:

In Exploration Class, you will experience many levels of personal musical growth. Musical learning will involve the use of music technology, playing percussion, composing music tracks, etc. No formal music training or special technical skills are required. At the end of the semester, you will make an audio CD of the music that you created and performed in class!

There will be lots of music sharing in class, including playing music tracks that you create! You also get to play on a variety of percussion instruments. Playing on these instruments will reinforce what you learn about rhythm. Students will play alone and with others! There might even be opportunities for you to be involved in some of our Chorus performances here at Peasley!

II. Essential Understandings:

Elements of Music: Students will participate in a variety of experiences as a means of studying melody, rhythm and harmony.

Creativity: The students will employ creativity in a variety of music experiences. Students will work alone or with a partner to complete lesson modules on composing music using traditional music notation. Students will also explore the practice of using pre-recorded loops to compose music.

Investigate: Students will describe performances; live or recorded, using appropriate music terminology. The music selected for these listening sessions will include a wide variety of music from different styles and time periods.

Connect: Students will demonstrate appropriate performance behavior as a participant and/or listener.

III. Required Materials and Supplies:

Pencil. Optionally you may wish to have a flash drive if you would like to keep a copy of your projects.

IV. Classroom Expectations: (beyond the Student Code of Conduct)

1. Follow Directions
2. Be on time for each rehearsal/lesson
3. Be respectful (friendly) to each person in the room
4. Keep hand and feet to yourself
5. No hats, food or drinks (except water)
6. No personal electronic devices during class

V. Grading and Student Evaluation:

A. Assignments and Projects

- Participation: Students will participate in daily activities that will include rhythm and counting exercises. These activities will promote music reading and help develop musical listening skills.
- Music Composition Lessons: Students will work alone or with a partner to complete lesson modules on composing music. Short melodic and rhythmic compositions will be created using traditional music notation software. Other music compositions will be created using loop-based software.
- Skill Checks: Each student will play alone, or with others to demonstrate understanding of counting in music and rhythm playing.
- Music Ace Lessons: Students are expected to complete **ten** computer sessions (Music Ace). Each session involves completing a lesson followed by a fun game.
- Music Class Work: Students will learn basic concepts about music. This seatwork will sometimes involve completing worksheets or other assignments.
- Student Reflection: Each student will be required to write and record a final reflection highlighting his or her best work.

B. Grading Scale

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
E	59 and below

<u>Grading Categories</u>	
Participation*	40%
Composition Lessons	25%
Skill Checks	15%
Music Class Work	15%
Student Reflection	5%

VI. Homework:

Practicing and other work done outside of class provides each student with the opportunity to improve skills, develop a deeper understanding of course content, or prepare for upcoming classroom activities, course assignments, and assessments. Students who complete assignments throughout the course will be better prepared for assessments and cumulative projects.

VI. Extra Help & Assistance:

Students are encouraged to seek help outside of classroom time. Mr. Otto will be available after school upon appointment. Make appointments during class, or use the contact information above. In addition, some classroom lessons as well as practice tracks are available on the [Chorus Web Page](#).

***Weekly participation grades** will be based on...

1. Arrival: On time in assigned seat. Put all personal items in appropriate place. No gum/food (bottled water ok). Join in the focusing activity promptly.
2. Materials: Music Folder, Pencil, Handouts, Instruments, etc.
3. Paying Attention: Listening, Studying, Practicing, Reading, Discussion, Etc.
4. Responsiveness: Respond to the teacher's musical directions, gestures and leadership.
5. Collaboration: Be respectful of the work we are all doing together to accomplish great music!

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Welcome! Attached you will find the syllabus for your class. Please go over this at home and have your parent/guardian complete and sign this form. Return this form no later than _____.



STUDENT SECTION:

I have received and reviewed the Syllabus for my Music Exploration Class. I agree to work hard to achieve my personal best and to follow the guidelines outlined in the syllabus. I also agree to follow all rules and expectations concerning school equipment and property such as computers and musical instruments.

Student Name: (print) _____

Student signature: _____



PARENT SECTION:

Please provide some basic information. This is requested in order to improve communication efforts.

Parent/Guardian Name: (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail _____

(main home e-mail)

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Best method is via email: potto@gc.k12.va.us .

Of course, you can call the school office 804-693-1499 to leave a message. You can also find lots more about this class on our website: <http://www.guitarpotto.com/peasleychorus> .