

# Songwriting & Production Syllabus (Semester One)

Ms. Anna Hemming | Email: [anna.hemming@nicolet.us](mailto:anna.hemming@nicolet.us) | Office Phone: 414-351-8171

**Course Description:** Songwriting and Production is a two-semester course that offers young musicians with elemental musical training instruction in melodic and harmonic theory, lyric development, recording techniques, sound editing, and mastering. Students will work individually and collaborate with classmates and student musicians in the Nicolet music lab, recording studio, and practice room facilities to develop musical ideas, write original material, record, edit, and master original songs and musical compositions.

## I. Class Expectations

- Follow the Tribe Learning Community Agreements
  - Listen with the heart as well as head
  - Express appreciation/ no put-downs
  - Mutual respect (for others, the school and environment)
  - The right to pass within a peer group
- Work collaboratively
- Abide by the Knight's Code
- Be fully engaged in every class
- Bring a growth mindset and required materials (instrument, music, etc.) to class each day
- Submit assignments on time

## II. Class Rules & Consequences

Classroom Rules	Consequences
Care for classroom resources	Pay to repair or replace the item(s)
Be on time for class	See Nicolet Student Handbook for Tardy Policy
Only use electronic devices when invited	Item confiscated for remainder of the hour (1st offence) Item held in HSO for remainder of the day (2nd offence)

## III. Grade Components

*(30%) Weekly Composition Demonstration:* Each week students will share a minimum of 15 seconds or 8 measures of original music written in 1) the assigned genre of the week and 2) any style they choose. If absent, students will share their compositions within two days of their return to school.

*(20%) Weekly Listening Journal Entry:* Students will analyze three songs (one assigned genre) by answering guiding questions to 1) develop their listening skills, 2) incorporate identified compositional techniques into their original work, and 3) expand their knowledge of musical styles.

*(20%) Written Work:* A variety of assessments will be administered to determine students' comprehension of music theory and composition concepts. Students may redo these assessments for a new grade until a level of proficiency is reached.

*(30%) Final Composition Presentation:* In an oral presentation, students will present their musical blueprint, laying out their choice of style, lyrics, musical form, harmonic progression, instrumentation, and melodic sketches. The presentation will be evaluated using a project rubric and checklist.

## V. Grading Scale:

A+ (98-100%)	A (92.5-97.9%)	A- (89.5-92.4%)
B+ (87.5-89.4%)	B (82.5-87.4%)	B- (79.5-82.4%)
C+ (77.5-79.4%)	C (72.5-77.4%)	C- (69.5-72.4%)
D+ (67.5-69.4%)	D (62.5-67.4%)	D- (59.5-62.4%)
F (59.5 > %)		