

# WORLD CULTURES IN MUSIC

## 2022-2023



We encourage students to be engaged in daily discussion regarding their own music experience, using technology and other means to accomplish our goals. This course introduces selected musical traditions and backgrounds from around the world, featuring music of Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Oceania, Latin America, and North America. Students will also learn to identify the basic elements of music, such as melody, rhythm, harmony, timbre, texture, and form, as found in various musical cultures, will learn the variety of uses and functions attributed to music and gain a glimpse into the musicians' perspectives. This class is a combination of culture and music learning. Students will listen to music every day in class, have a weekly lesson on a world instrument, participate in other engaging activities including a semester group project where they will do research as an "ambassador" to a culture of their choice.

### CLASS PROCEDURES + RULES

- Students enter the room and sit in their assigned seat at the beginning of class.
- Restroom passes are best used in the ***first and last 5 minutes of class***. Like other things, emergencies do occur. *I'll be reasonable if you are.*
- My job as a teacher can be summed up with 2 main responsibilities: To facilitate students' learning every day and to keep them safe. Students head to class ready to learn, and not impede the learning of their classmates. Students will lose class points for the day if they are failing to live up to these responsibilities. If you have any questions about this, just ask me! :)
- **Cell phones.** It's 2022 and everyone has one, let's be respectful and only have them out when absolutely necessary (a real emergency, etc.). Follow building protocol for these. I'll be better about using mine, too.
- We will use a lot of technology in order to learn in class, especially Chromebooks and the internet. Students are expected to navigate the internet in a way that is appropriate and in adherence to school/district policy. **Make good decisions!**
- Students will have the opportunity to engage in occasional "free" listening time where they will be given the opportunity to listen to music of their choice on headphones. If any parent has any concern about their student handling this freedom, please contact me.

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### **GRADING POLICY**

Students should earn 5 points a day for participation in class. 2 of these points are for participation (1 for constructive personal engagement and another for constructively contributing to the class as a whole), 2 for listening (1 for constructively listening the music during listening time and 1 for actively responding to the listening prompts of the day), and lastly a point for their work on the class activity for the day. My goal is to make the loss of points clear in Powerschool so parents can understand their student's progress. 70% of the final grade in this course is from class points.

### **CULTURE PROJECTS**

Students will work on a semester project where they work in groups investigating different aspects of a culture they choose in regards to cultural practices related to music. Students will be working on school Chromebooks in class in order to do research for this project. Students will compile their research into a Google Slides document and will share it digitally with Mr. Laswell via the Google Suite, and give a short 10 minute presentation to their class. We will present and share our projects at the end of each semester.

### **INSTRUMENT OF THE WEEK**

Students will learn about a unique instrument/music style every week. The instruments are going to be from all over the world. Students will be tested/quizzed on these each week. Quizzes will seldom be written, and most classwork will be done through collaborative classroom participation or on Schoology/Chromebook.

### **COLLAB FRIDAYS/RECOGNITION FRIDAYS**

If your class lands on a Friday, these days will be used for group collaboration on Culture projects. Students will work together to listen, compare, discover music & environments, etc. from a world culture of their choice. We will have one group project each semester, that will be 20% of their semester grade. On Fridays we share positivity with our classmates,

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

I am hard to find: I am at a different school each day and I teach in a different classroom almost every period. Please do not let this stop you from trying to contact me, I want to hear from you! If you need to get a hold of me, the best way is via email. My school email is [LaswellJ@westerville.k12.oh.us](mailto:LaswellJ@westerville.k12.oh.us). Since I'm a traveling teacher, I do not have a set phone line for contact. The best way for me to contact parents/guardians and students is through Schoology and e-mail. If you have a better email than the one provided on those two programs please contact me.

**Please never hesitate to contact me at my email address with any questions or concerns.** My personal policy is to return emails within 24 hours and I want to have clear and approachable communication with all of my students and families.

Please detach and return the signed form below or respond to me via email that you and your student understand these policies. This is your first grade of the school year!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Laswell



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Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

***\*I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE POLICIES OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS ABOVE\****

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_