

Dear Students and Families,

January 23rd, 2017

Please read, sign, and return this letter by Friday, January 27th for a Homework grade.

### Curriculum

We will be exploring 5 major questions over the course of this semester:

- “What makes a ‘hit’ song?” - lyrics analysis, influential songs and artists, elements of music
- “Where have I heard this before?” - sampling, borrowing, looping, parodies
- “How does a style of music change overtime?” - jazz history, elements of hip hop
- “How did the radio impact the world?” - radio history, radio stations, podcasts, radio show
- and “How does music affect a TV show?” - cartoon music, music supervisors

We will be answering these questions through Project-Based Learning, where students will create projects based on the content we are studying. Students will explore various jobs that are available in the music industry. We will also be studying other elements of music in society through smaller units and assignments.

### Materials

Students must bring a writing utensil every day. Students must also provide their own binder, folder, or dedicated section of a binder to store their materials. I will help students organize their materials periodically, but students must be responsible for holding onto their assignments. Students may wish to have headphones to listen to music, and may be asked to bring a phone or Chromebook for quick research.

### Grading/Expectations

All students are expected to come to class on time, prepared with their materials, and ready to learn. Students are expected to respect the teacher, each other, and themselves. Students will succeed if they show effort, participate regularly, behave appropriately, think creatively and strategically, and show initiative to learn.

Students will be graded on three categories: classwork, (30%) projects (50%), homework (20%). Each classwork and homework assignment will be graded on completion and effort. The rubric for each larger project will be provided before students start working on it, so every student knows what is expected of them. **Please be aware that some projects will require a speaking engagement for a portion of the grade.**

### Resources

Listening to music is a huge part of becoming an accomplished musician and an informed consumer. It is expected that you will spend some time listening to various recordings of suggested repertoire outside of class. I encourage you to get a Spotify account (the basic account is free) where you can explore a vast amount of recordings.

I will also be updating the <http://pentucketmusic.weebly.com/music-in-society.html> website regularly with interesting articles and resources for students to explore.

**Pentucket Regional High School and Middle School**  
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24 Main Street  
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January 23rd, 2017

Please review the attached course guidelines and return this signed form to Miss MacLennan by Friday, January 27th. (counts as a homework assignment for the students).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) certify that I have read and understood my course guidelines and grading policy. I also agree to abide by these class rules and participate to my fullest extent possible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian name) certify that I have read and understood the course guidelines and grading policy. I also agree to support the class objectives and rules with my child to my fullest extent possible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent / Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_