

**Course Overview/Description**

The 8th grade *Composin' and Plunkin'* course is a forced elective term course offering. *Composin' and Plunkin'* is designed to give students a hands on musical experience implementing basic general music concepts learned in previous courses.

The course will take students on a journey through the piano, exploring the function of the instrument while also experimenting with composition and music reading. After a brief review of the parts of the piano, the students will be given the opportunity to create and perform their own compositions in a masterclass style format.

**Scope and Sequence**

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
2 Weeks	Piano Logistics	<b>Project Task 1 - Identify the keys on the piano</b> (white keys; #'s and flats); <b>Project Task 2 - Identify the notes on the Grand Staff</b> (what is a grand staff?; translating notes from staff to piano)
2 Weeks	Piano Technique: Chords and Melody	<b>Project Task 3 - Play a melody using your right hand on the piano</b> (what is a melody?; finger techniques) <b>Project Task 4 - Play the chords C, F, and G in your right hand</b> (what is a triad; what is a chord; what are the notes of each chord; what fingers do I use) <b>Project Task 5 - Play the chords C, F, and G in left hand</b> (what fingers do I use in my left hand?) <b>Project Task 6 - Play the chords C, f, and G in both hands together</b> <b>Project Task 8-10 - repeat process from PT 4-6 using chords D, G, and A</b> (How do I play chords with sharps/flats) <b>Project Task 16 - Play a song that uses chords and a melody together</b>
1 Week	How to Read a Chord Sheet	<b>Project Task 7 - Play a song that uses 3 chords</b> (how do I read a chord sheet?)

		<b>Project Task 11 - Play a song that uses 5 chords</b>
<b>4 Weeks</b>	<b>How to Write a Song</b>	<b>Project Task 12 - Compose a 4-chord progression</b> (how do I notate music? What notes sound good together?) <b>Project Task 13 - Compose a melody to go with your progression</b> (What notes will work for melody and my progression; how do I write a tune?) <b>Project Task 14 - Play your melody and chord progression together</b> <b>Project Task 15 - Play your composition as a duet with another person</b> (what is a duet; how do we play together?)
<b>Remaining Time</b>	<b>Computer Composition</b>	<b><i>*Using finale notepad to transcribe compositions</i></b>

### Course Details

The course is a flipped classroom where most of the instruction is online through video tutorials that I've created for each project (or project task). At the start of the term, the students are instructed in person as well as through my videos as a full class. As students start to progress, they are allowed to work at their own pace, using the videos to guide their learning. Therefore, the timeframe and units are fluid depending on each student's progress. I put an estimate timeframe above for each unit, although we don't follow a strict structure.

Below are the project tasks that they are to complete by the end of the term. If students complete their project tasks for the uke, they can proceed to creating online digital compositions.

### Project Tasks

- 1) Identify the keys on the piano (black and white keys) - written
- 2) Identify the notes on the grand staff - *what is the grand staff?* - written
- 3) Play a melody using your right hand on the piano - *what is a melody?*
- 4) Play the chords C, F, G using your right hand - *what is a chord? what is a triad?*
- 5) Play the chords C, F, G using your left hand - *how do I play a chord using my left hand?*
- 6) Play the chords C, F, G using both hands together - *what is a chord progression?*
- 7) Play a song that uses three different chords - *how do I read chord symbols?*
- 8) Play the chords D, G, A using your right hand - *how do I adjust my fingers for chords?*
- 9) Play the chords D, G, A using your left hand
- 10) Play the chords D, G, A using both hands together
- 11) Play a song that uses five different chords
- 12) Compose a 4-chord progression- *how do I notate music?*
- 13) Compose a melody for the 4-chord progression - *how do I use chords to write a melody?*
- 14) Play your melody and chord progression together
- 15) Play your composition as a duet with another person - *what is a duet?*
- 16) Play a song that uses chords in the left and a melody in the right hand