

## Harmony Music 2017-18 Parent Letter

Twice each school year I set aside time to reflect on the programming for my students, studio policy, and the materials I provide. I look at what worked well, what didn't, and general areas of strength and improvement. I use my reflections to help improve my teaching skills and develop the next year's incentives and studio challenge. Below are some of the new and exciting things we will see this fall.

The 2017-18 studio incentive is going to be Piano Karate! (in place of Pirates Treasure and the sticker chart) There are a number of tasks to be completed within each belt before testing for the next belt. Will we make it all the way to the black belt? It won't be easy, but we will have lots of fun along the way. Every student will receive a bookmark with the belt colors listed and a hole punched out to collect the belts they earn. This bookmark can be used in their assignment book so they can easily find what they are working on for the week and check off each assignment as they complete it.

### The 40 Piece Challenge:

In an effort to provide your child with a variety of music this coming year, we will be doing the 40 piece challenge. The goal is to learn at least 40 different songs of varying difficulty over the school year. Music may be from their lesson books and any other book or sheet music I provide. Each piece needs to meet certain requirements before it's passed. This page will also double as a dynamic progress report and help me determine areas of focus for each student.

### Music Around the World:

I have a large amount of patriotic and traditional music from several different countries. In September students will be provided with a list of countries to learn about. They will choose a country and each month will focus on a small part of that country's history from composers, culture, traditions, and of course playing some of the music. In June, all of our learning will be compiled onto posters and displayed at the 2018 recital.

### Collection of Original Compositions:

One thing I started doing this year was having students write some of their own music. This went over better than I expected and everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge. Part of our Piano Karate program is to write our own music and I hope to be able to take all our compositions and compile them into a book/album in the 2017-18 school year.

### Assignment book:

In September when your child receives their new assignment pages for the year please take a look through them. I have made some changes so they flow better with the year's programming. I write details of each piece your child is to practice, book, page numbers, and areas to work on. There are check boxes that can be ticked off when each part of the assignment is completed for that day. Please help your child with this as best as you can. Parent signatures are required for each week's assignment.