Digital Media Arts aka "Music Tech"
Course Syllabus
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Description and Organization: This course focuses on the electronic production, manipulation, and organization of music. Major topics will include producing, recording, mixing, sequencing, composing, and performing with computers and related music hardware. The course will also focus on using music theory (and the piano) to make composing music easier. This is a lecture-lab course in which topics are presented by the teacher and assignments and projects are completed by students on their laptops. Objective goals and quizzes are graded daily, and there is a comprehensive final exam project. No musical experience is necessary to succeed in this class. The operating system Ubuntu Studio will be used to familiarize students with many programs used or similar to those used in the professional world.

Course Objectives:

To orient students with the history and theory of modern electronic music.
To focus attention on the development of Hip Hop, EDM, and video game music.
To explore music composition from a 21st century point of view.
To introduce students to playing and composing with the piano.
To introduce students to hardware and software used in the music industry.
To educate students on recording and mixing processes, hardware, and techniques.
To educate students on the benefits of open source software.
To allow students a creative outlet to make and perform music that appeals to them.
To cover the National Standards for Music Education:

1. *Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.*
2. *Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.*
3. *Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.*
4. *Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.*
5. *Reading and notating music.*
6. *Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.*
7. *Evaluating music and music performances.*
8. *Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.*
9. *Understanding music in relation to history and culture.*

Additional Course Topics:

Computer hardware, Computer software, Computer operating systems, Linux, Ubuntu Studio, Open source, Recording, Effects, Mixing, Sequencing, MIDI, Drum programming, Synthesizers, Composing, Performing, Publishing, Arranging, Digital art, Electronic music history, and video editing.

Required Supplies: Students will need to bring headphones every day. I will supply a

laptop for each student to be used in class - these are different from the standard chromebooks each student is issued. Students will also need a folder and a notebook or loose paper for notes and handouts.

Grading: Grading will include daily in-class assignments, frequent quizzes, larger projects, semester exams, and participation.

    Participation grades will be daily and will be based on the following question - "Is the student actively engaged in the class?" In this class, you will have a unique opportunity to learn skills that are not usually taught in high schools, and I want to see that you are taking advantage of that opportunity.

    In-class assignments are tasks that are integral to success in the course and demonstrate proficiency of the topic.

    Projects are what really drives this course and what will probably be most enjoyable for students. Projects will be larger, multi-day assignments often involving creativity and troubleshooting. Grading rubrics will be provided for each project.

    Quizzes include both written questions of knowledge or procedure as well as demonstrating mastery of a topic on the computer through an assignment.

    Tests are "end of unit" tasks or questions that check your mastery of the concepts.

    Semester exams are typically large projects that sum up and demonstrate what you have learned over the last few months.

    In-class work and Participation- 30%
    Projects -30%
    Quizzes - 20%
    Tests - 20%
    Semester Exams - 20% of final grade

Mastery: GTCHS is a mastery school. This means that if your grade falls below a 75, it is **your responsibility** to attend office hours with me to bring your grade up. My office hours are Wednesday after school, but you will find that I am very flexible and I am happy to work with you to find time on another day or virtually if needed. **You have to make the effort to talk to me about your grade concerns.**

Need extra help or time, regardless of your grade?
You are always welcome to **arrange a time** with me to work on your projects, either by yourself or with my assistance. You will not have access to the laptops otherwise.

Communication: We will use Google Classroom for most of our class-related communication. Please check it daily for announcements and assignments.

    Use this code to join now: hnenhaq

Classroom Rules:
You are entrusted with a special Music Technology laptop, and it will be very clear in class what

you are allowed to do with it. If you choose to visit non-class related websites or get off task with the laptop, you will lose your computer privileges in my class and you will receive a referral to administration to discuss with them how you will complete assignments without a computer.
Treat everyone with respect.
You may have water only in a sealed container in my classroom. No food is allowed.
Have your phone visible only if you have been given permission to do so.
Remove your headphones when you leave my class.

Parent involvement
I firmly believe that any issues that arise in class can be resolved between you and I. I will not involve your parents as long as our discussions result in a positive change.