

Musical History SPARK Cohort (6th Grade)

Teachers: Ms. Russo & Mr. Cummings

Class Overview:

In Musical History, students will explore historic events through the lens of musical theatre shows. Students will discover aspects of the musical's time in history and uncover how it connects to the plot. They will use musical skills, such as lyric analysis, song form, and musical tone. Students will also spend time analyzing the music and the musical's film adaptation for historical clues. In addition, students will participate in performances for M.S. 890's annual concerts throughout the year in order to experience performing musical numbers first hand.

Music Classroom Expectations

- Respect others
- Respect the room and materials
- Participate
- Have fun!

Materials Needed:

- Any type of notebook
- A folder

*If you cannot get these materials for any reason, please dedicate a section in your binder for music instead.

Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned every class. All homework must be handed in by the indicated due date.

Late homework will only be accepted if a student is absent on the day it is due. In this case, the homework is due the following class.

Extra credit opportunities will be available to make up missed homework upon request when more than 2 assigned are missing.

On homework please write the following so that I am able to grade it:

- your first and last name
- name of the class
- full description of the assignment

Journaling Expectations

At the beginning of each class, Ms. Russo will play a new piece of music. You will be asked to *listen* and write a journal entry (around 3-5 sentences) in the back of your notebook responding to the question:

“What do you hear?”

You can write about *anything* you hear in the music! In case you are not sure what to write about, here are some suggestions:

- ❖ What instruments you hear
- ❖ What the words are and what you think they mean
- ❖ What mood or emotion the music makes you feel
- ❖ What genre of music (like pop, jazz, rock, classical, etc.) the song could be from
- ❖ What the music reminds you of (maybe another song or type of music)

Reminders:

- Write the date at the top of your journal
- Write the name of the song under your paragraph when Ms. Russo writes it on the board

*Journaling entries will be read periodically and count for quiz grades.

Musical History Specific Questions

- ❖ What do you think is happening during the song?
- ❖ What do you think the scene looks like during the song?
- ❖ What time period or event in history do you think this takes place during? Why?