

Donna Foerster
Syllabus 2024 - 2025
Beginning Keyboard I (Level 1)

Text: Piano Discoveries

Books A and B

By Lynn Freeman Olson, Louise Bianchi, and Marvin Blickenstaff

We require that all students have their own set of ear buds for use with the pianos. These can be purchased as inexpensively as \$1.25 at Dollar Tree, or in the \$5 - \$10 range at stores such as Walmart, Target, Best Buy, etc. Because these will probably need to be replaced at least once during the school year, I do not recommend expensive earbuds, such as Apple.

Major grades (40% of total score) will consist of tests and performances. Minor grades (60% of total score) will consist of tech-based assessments, performance-based assessments, written work, discussions, and professional responsibilities. Having ear buds every day is part of the professional responsibilities grade - one point is deducted for each day they are missing. The grading of the performance assessments is based on the number of mistakes - one point is deducted for each error.

The concepts presented in each book are as follows:

Book A:

- Bass clef
- Treble clef
- Grand staff
- Time signature
- Measures and bar lines
- Note and rest rhythm values
- Intervals
- Note recognition both orally and at the piano
- Legato
- Staccato
- Dynamics

Book B:

- Whole step
- Half step
- 5-finger patterns
- Accidentals
- Transposing
- Upbeat
- Repeat
- Ritardando
- Fermata
- Accent
- Intervals not learned in Book A
- Ottava
- Damper pedal

Grading for the class, middle school and high school, is as follows:

- Major grades = 40% (tests and performances)
- Minor grades = 60% (tech-based assessments, performance-based assessments, discussions, and professional responsibilities)