# CTE Digital Composition

**Canyon Crest Academy**
**Instructor- Nathan Jarrell, Location- M112**
**Contact- Nathan.Jarrell@sdhusd.net**
**858-350-0253 ext. 4232**

## Recommended Materials

-Students are encouraged to purchase a **thumb/flash drive of at least 16 GB or more**. Students will be able to upload files to Blackboard or their H drive when logged in on a computer, but backing up files onto a thumb drive may sometimes be more efficient for saving work done in class. This should cost in the range of $10-$20 for this size storage device
-Students will also need a **notebook** for note taking and journal entries.

## Course Overview

CTE Digital Composition is designed to introduce students to the industry standard techniques, equipment, and computer software used to create music digitally using MIDI sequencing and computer technology. Students will work in a hands-on environment to develop proficiency in using the software programs Reason and Sibelius to create original works of digital music. Students will also learn the basics of music theory, rhythmic concepts, and composition. This course is open to both musicians and non-musicians.

## Course Objectives

-Proficiency in the use of a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) to create music, compose, and edit music and audio.
-Understanding of basic composition principals and music theory.
-Understanding of historical and current trends in the use of MIDI sequencing and digital music production
-Development of professionalism required to work in the music and recording fields
-Development of critical music listening skills
-Development of a portfolio of work created throughout the course

## Student Expectations

-Students in this course will complete a large portion of their work in class which means that attendance and on time arrival to class is essential. Due to the large amount of in class work that will take place, excessive absence or tardiness will make it difficult for students to make up missed work.
-Students are expected to treat their fellow students in a respectful manner at all times. There will be various group projects that will require students to work productively and creatively together to attain their goals.
-The computers and recording equipment used in class are expected to be treated in a careful and respectful manner so as not to damage any of the equipment. ***No food or drink will be allowed in the computer lab at any time.***
-Assignments and projects are expected to be completed efficiently and on time. Due to the large amount of in-class work, time management skills will be very important. Any late work will result in a 10% loss to the grade on that assignment. In the case of an excused absence, students will be given an equal amount of time to the number of days absent to complete make-up assignments.
-Academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating are taken very seriously. While students will often be working in groups in this course, students are expected to complete any individual assignments on their own. Any violation of policy will result in a zero on that assignment based on district policy.

**Assignments, Projects, and Homework**
**Guided Tutorials**- Students will take part in guided tutorials designed to build their knowledge and skills needed for using the computer software, equipment, and techniques employed in this course. Students will be required to demonstrate their ability to execute the skills learned in the tutorials through in-class assignments based on the tutorials.
**Music Theory/Terminology Quizzes-** Students will be periodically quizzed on the music theory concepts and the terminology learned in class.
**Written Work/Recording Reviews-** Students will complete a few short written assignments throughout the course of the semester.
**Composition Projects-** Students will complete and submit a composition project every 2-3 weeks that will feature the techniques learned in that portion of the class.
**Mid Term and Final Projects-** Students will not take a written final in the class but will complete an extensive final project at the end of each quarter utilizing all of the skills they have acquired up to that point

**All assignments and due dates will be available on Blackboard. Homework will be minimal as most of the work done will take place in class. If students feel they need more time in the computer lab to work on their projects, they are encouraged to speak to the instructor to arrange for work times during lunch or after school.**

**Grades**
Tutorials- 15%
Terminology/Music Theory Quizzes- 15%
Written Work- 10%
Composition projects- 40%
Final composition project-20%

**Attendance Policy**
1st tardy- Results in verbal warning
$2^{nd}$ tardy- Results in warning and communication with parent
$3^{rd}$ tardy- Results in referral for Saturday School
**In the case of an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to seek out any missed assignments and class work.  All assignments and tutorials will be posted on Google Classroom. Regular attendance is necessary to do well in this course!**

**HOW CAN MY FAMILY HELP?**

Parent Volunteers are always welcome and needed! Please contact Mr. Jarrell or the CCA Foundation for ways to become involved with your student's education. We would love for you to spend time with us, helping support your kids! We staff an amazing group of teaching artists whose salaries are funded through the Foundation. Our music and instruments are also primarily funded through donations to the Foundation. We can only continue to offer a rigorous and varied arts program through financial support from our families.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited to have your student in my CTE Digital Composition class this semester. This class provides the opportunity for your student to both express themselves creatively and learn the basic skills needed to potentially pursue work in the music industry. Whether or not that is your student's ultimate goal, I look forward to providing them with an enriching experience that will add to their overall education and growth here at CCA.

Please take a moment to look through the syllabus with your student. There is a space below for both you and your student to sign, indicating that you have read through the policies and goals described in the syllabus. The student will need to return this page to me by the end of our first week of class. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Thank you!

Nathan Jarrell
Nathan.Jarrell@sduhsd.net
858-350-0253 ext. 4232

I have read and understand the policies for this class.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature_____

Student Name_____

Student Signature_____