About Me!
Hello, my name is Mr. Pennington and I am the Orchestra, Guitar and Choir teacher here at Combs High. I grew up in the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati area, and moved to Arizona to begin my teaching career three years ago. This is my fourth year teaching in the J.O. Combs district. In my spare time, I enjoy playing video games, reading, traveling, and spending time with my four pets.

Instructor Contact Information
Instructor Name: Keith Pennington
Instructor Email: kpennington@jocombs.org
Phone: 480-882-3540, ext. 7646 (Office)
Room Number: 643

NEW THIS YEAR!: Website
This year all staff at Combs High School and across the district have set up their own personal websites, which can be accessed through the school site: http://combshs.jocombs.org. This website will have all concert dates, this syllabus, the performance attire information as well as lots of other helpful information about my class.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
The Combs High Orchestra and the Combs High Choir both have a Facebook page. I am working on building a Guitar page as well. Please show your support for our program by liking and following our pages. This is another way to keep up with concert and class updates as well.

Parent Communication
Email is the best way to contact me. If you have a concern/question, I will try my best to respond within 1 business day. If it is over a weekend, I will follow up the following business day. Please note that the majority of parent communication I do regarding whole class updates is through Jupiter Grades and therefore Jupiter is an important part of collaboration amongst myself, the student and the parent/guardian.

Required Class Materials
- Instrument (if Guitar, a school owned instrument can be provided)
- Other Instrument accessories (bow, case, cleaning cloth, rosin)
- Pencil
Course Objective
The main objective for this course is to give successful performances through the learning and understanding of written music. This includes the study of music theory, history, reading sheet music, performing alone and with others. The 2015 Arizona Art Standards as well as the National Music Education Standards inform the curriculum and instruction of this course.

National Music Education Standards

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.

Course Fee
There are $120 total in course fees for participation in certain Fine Arts class (Orchestra/Choir only) at Combs High School. This is used for transportation, festival fees associated with trips and performances throughout the school year, and cost of procuring materials for the class. Students will need to pay this fee at the Combs High School bookstore. I will discuss this with the class if it applies. If you have any questions about fees, please feel free to ask.

Attendance/Tardy Policy
Students will be expected to be seated in their assigned classroom seat when the bell rings. Repeated tardiness will result in referrals to administration and students will be sent to the In School Suspension/Sweep room. Students will be expected to complete all alternative assignments assigned to them in the event that they are sent to the ISS room and these assignments will serve as their participation points for their participation grade, with highest grade they can receive being an 80%.
attendance/tardy policies outlined in the student handbook will be followed by the instructor.

Cell Phone Policy
Students will NOT be able to use their cell phones in my class unless they are given permission directly. Multiple offenses of the cell phone policy will result in discipline referrals. Refusal to adhere to this policy will result in loss of daily participation points and all infractions will be logged in Jupiter.

Food/Drink/Gum/Candy Policy
Absolutely no food, drink (water bottles OK) or gum/candy will be allowed while in the classroom. Students will be instructed to throw away any food or drink that is brought into the classroom. Repeated offenses will result in discipline referrals.

School Materials Policy
Students will treat all school materials during this course with respect and will be held liable for repair/replacement costs for any damage that may occur while they are using the materials.

Classroom Behavior
Student behavior is to revolve around the positive behavior traits of Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Respect, Fairness, Caring and Good Citizenship. All behavior that does not involve these traits and adversely affects learning will be logged. Behavior will be dealt with in the following manner:
Minor offense guidelines: General disruptive behavior, lack of needed materials, food and drink, dishonesty (repeated- major), cell phone (repeated- major), refusal to follow reasonable requests.
1st offense (minor): Vocal Warning
2nd offense (minor): Conference with student, log in Jupiter, parent call home
Major offense guidelines: repeated minor offenses and/or leaving class without permission, not returning to class on time, sleeping, tardiness, misbehavior with substitutes, and lack of productivity (apathy) or lack of participation.
Major Offense: Conference with student, log in Jupiter, parent call home, discipline referral
2nd Major Offense: Conference with student, ISS, log in Jupiter, parent call, discipline referral

Combs High School Diversity Policy
Respect and Diversity Statement: All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Combs High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student’s race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation. Students at Combs High School will respect each other.

Grading Policy

The majority of grades in this class will be based upon performance grades, both in class and out of class. I will remind you that your effort will determine what grade you will receive. Grading will be divided into 3 categories:

- 60%- Assessments (playing/singing exams)
- 20%- Classwork
- 20%- Performances

Practice Expectations

Performance assessments account for the majority of a student’s grade in an ensemble class; therefore regular practice sessions outside of school hours are expected in order for a student to be successful. Students who do not spend the necessary amount of time outside of class on practice will not do well on the frequent performance assessments throughout the semester.

Performances

As this is a performance-based class, performances will be a required part of the class grade. Students will perform in class and as part of ensemble performances during the school year. All performances are mandatory. A minimum of two weeks notice is required if students need to request an absence from a performance. The instructor reserves the right to determine which absences are excused and which will require make-up work. Non-attendance at concerts due to an afterschool job or lack of transportation will not be considered a valid excuse.

Performance Schedule

A performance schedule will be attached to this syllabus.

Performance Attire

A description of required performance attire will be attached to this syllabus.
**Ask me!**

I believe firmly that the student, parent/guardian and teacher are an academic team that must work together throughout this course to ensure the student’s success. I will make a concentrated effort to keep your child and all parent/guardians up to date regarding their progress in my class. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is kpennington@jocombs.org. I can also be reached at 480-882-3540 ext. 7646.

---

(detach this form and return it signed on **Monday, August 6th** for your first 10 points)

**Parent Permission Form**

I have read and understand that my child, _____________________ (please print), will be held to the policies described above in addition to the Music Department Handbook, which was discussed in class with my student and available for reference at any time. I understand that the policies above can be changed at the discretion of the instructor, and if this happens, I will be notified in advance. By signing the line below, I agree to help ensure my child behaves in accordance with the policies and procedures in this syllabus and that I have reviewed all performance dates given for conflicts.

Parent Signature_________________________________________________

Student Signature_________________________________________________

Date________________________