

# PRE-AP MUSIC THEORY SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mr. DeCutler

Room: 301

Time: 4<sup>th</sup> Period

## Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to teach students the fundamentals of music. Students will explore music notation, analysis, composition, and perform music vocally and on the keyboard. This class is designed to give students a solid foundation of musical knowledge that will prepare them for AP Music Theory or a Freshman-level music theory class in college.

## Primary Course Content

- Fundamentals: staves, clefs, time signatures, key signatures
- Scales
- Rhythm and Meter
- Chords and harmonic progressions
- Music notation and composition
- Form: phrases, cadences
- Sight-singing
- Aural skills: identification of melodic and harmonic excerpts
- Piano skills: scales, intervals, exercises, and simple pieces with one or both hands

## Resources

Benward, Bruce and Saker, Marilyn. Music in Theory and Practice. Vol. 1 Ninth edition. McGraw-Hill: New York.

Kostka, Stefan and Payne, Dorothy. Tonal Harmony. McGraw-Hill: New York.

Berkowitz, Sol, et al. A New Approach to Sight Singing. W.W. Norton & Company: New York.

[www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)

<http://www.emusictheory.com/practice.html>

<http://musictheoryexamples.com>

Additional resources will be introduced as needed.

## Required Materials

Students are responsible for maintaining a notebook or binder with all class notes and handouts. They must have notebook paper, staff paper, and a pencil at all times. Staff paper is available free from many websites. **All work must be done in pencil.**

Assignments in pen will not be accepted.

## Class Participation

Much of the class will be conducted in an interactive environment. Since many of the objectives for this class (TEKS) require students to demonstrate proficiency in specific skills, class participation is important. This includes, but is not limited to: discussions over assigned reading, demonstrations and board-work, in-class compositions, group

work, listening analysis exercises, dictation, sight-singing, and performances on the keyboard.

### **Grading Policy**

Students' grades will be calculated as follows:

- Class work, homework: 40%
- Performances, projects: 20%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Six weeks tests: 15%

### **Quizzes and Tests**

Periodic quizzes will be given to monitor student work; some will be announced, others will not. At least one major test will be given each six weeks. Both quizzes and tests may include written, oral, aural, and piano components.

### **Keyboard**

One of the main components of this course is work on the piano keyboard. Students will be asked to perform simple exercises and pieces on the keyboard to demonstrate musical literacy and comprehension. This work is extremely important for the development of musical skills. Students are not required to own their own keyboard, but must find time to practice on one outside of class. They are welcome to use the pianos in the classroom but must schedule an appointment time (see tutoring below).

### **Late Work**

Because the skills in music theory are cumulative, homework must be turned in on time. Homework grades will be penalized 10 points for each late (school) day. Work that is more than two days late will not be accepted. If a student is absent from class, it is their responsibility to find out what they missed. Make-up work will follow district guidelines for due dates.

### **Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts**

Students will be required to attend at least one broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera during the year. These are live broadcasts held at Booker T Washington on Saturdays. There is no cost and students may request additional tickets for family members.

### **Tutoring**

Because there is only one section of Pre-AP theory, tutoring is by appointment only. Please schedule appointments in advance. The most common tutoring times in the past have been Fridays after school and lunch time on B days.