

Hi AP Music Theory Students!

AP Music Theory is a college level course on the fundamentals of music. The course includes the study of notation (reading pitches and rhythms in different clefs), scales and modes, intervals, triads (chords), part writing (creating chorales in four voices), form analysis, harmonic and melodic dictation, and sight singing.

Each day in class, we will be singing, ear-training, writing down music that is heard (called dictation), error detection, and learning the fundamentals of music.

Throughout the year, we will be using Schoology to access lots of resources, information, tests & quizzes, and drills. It will also have homework assignments listed each day and give a link to download anything that you may have lost or missed. While you cannot access the course until late summer, please log-in to Schoology and join the Summer AP Music Theory group. There will be links to resources that I recommend you work on over the summer. In addition, the summer assignments will be posted there.

**On Schoology: Click Groups, then My Groups, and finally click Join Group.
The group code is: VTF4-2K2P-VWNND.**

Another area of study that may be challenging for you is sight singing. Sight singing is literally reading and singing music on the spot (at least on the AP Exam, they let you look at the music for 75 seconds before you must start singing!). We will all be sight singing together in class. This means other students in the class will hear you sing!!! Try to play a simple tune on the piano or guitar (or another instrument), then sing it in the same key. Just doing this, singing out loud, will be helpful. To take this one step further, try singing using solfeggio – do(1), re(2), mi(3), fa(4), sol(5), la(6), ti(7), do(8). For example, Mary Had a Little Lamb using solfeggio is: mi re do re mi mi mi - re re re - mi sol sol - mi re do re mi mi mi mi re re mi re do. Use solfeggio when singing other tunes. Singing using solfeggio over the summer will help you prepare for sight singing in class. We will also be using Schoology to submit singing homework assignments, so we do not lose out on too much instructional time.

Here is a review of the three things that you need to do over the next few weeks to help prepare you for success in AP Music Theory:

1. Go to Schoology and join the group. This is where your summer assignments are located, as well as resources to prepare you for day one.
2. Sing simple tunes out loud using solfeggio. Be able to sing a simple song using solfeggio on the first day of class. Prepare to sing one of the following tunes on Day 1:
 - a. Hot Cross Buns
 - b. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. Ode to Joy.
3. Work through exercises on the “fundamentals” of music. Be able to:
 - a. name notes on the keyboard
 - b. read note names in treble, alto, tenor, and bass clefs
 - c. identify octave numbers on both the keyboard and staff notation by the first day of class.

Enjoy your vacation. Stay cool!

Mr. Hamilton