



Southmoreland School District AP Music Theory Curriculum Overview

Advanced Placement Music Theory Overview:

The purpose of this course is to expand and hone theory skills beyond those gained in Beginning Theory. Students will develop the skills and have the opportunity to take the AP Music Theory test. The course is geared toward the advancing musician with a serious interest in music and music theory. Students interested in pursuing a career in music are recommended to take this course. Course material will include advanced theory, aural training, part writing, composition, music technology and comprehensive music analysis. This class is open to upperclassmen, but it cannot be taken for more than one year.

Module Titles:

Module 1: Notation

Module 2: Aural Skills

Module 3: Historical Characteristics of Music

Module 4: Analysis of Music

Module Overviews:

Module 1:

Students will learn to read all forms of modern-day western music notation. Concepts covered include: All music and percussion clefs, piano notation, advanced rhythm study, meter, scales, modes, intervals, chords, seventh chords, transposition, counterpoint, non-chord tones, modern music notation.

Module 2:

The class will work to develop aural skills to sight-read music in effort to perform or analyze written notation, as well as, evaluate and compare the music they are hearing to written notation. Students will work to sight-sing, dictate, identify and create harmonies to melodic lines.

Module 3:

Part-writing rules form the basic techniques to create, blend, harmonize and analyze written music. Understanding, identifying, analyzing and composing music using foundational techniques will allow students to begin to create compositions with strong melodic and harmonic development that can be expanded upon in a variety of styles and genres. Students will be able to understand harmonic progression, form and cadences.



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Module 4:

The class will study pieces of music that are major works to serve as aural and theoretical examples. Not only will this expand upon one's musical knowledge, it will also allow students to hear substantial works of music that provide aural examples of concepts covered in class.