

Dear AP Music Theory Students and Parents,

Congratulations on being enrolled in AP Music Theory for the 2020-2021 school year! Please take the time to read all of this information below so that you understand the demands of the course. Feel free to contact us via email if you have any questions or concerns. Students will be expected to take a diagnostic quiz on the first day of class. Please use the information in this letter to help you prepare.

**The Course:** Advanced Placement courses are presented on a college level using college-level textbooks and materials. AP Music Theory is similar to a first year college student's music theory experience, developing both theoretical and aural skills (usually taught as two separate courses in college!). In May, AP Music Theory students take the AP Music Theory Exam. Students who score well may receive college credit for up to a year of Music Theory and/or Aural Skills.

**Summer Assignment:** Due to the amount of content we need to complete next year, it is necessary to complete some coursework over the summer. A summer assignment is attached to this letter. You should complete the packet and bring it with you on the first day of school. This will be graded and included in your first marking period grade. This packet also contains a list of topics that will be covered on the first-day quiz as well as a few excellent and free internet sources for you to use for additional instruction and practice questions.

**Online Summer Assignment:** Each of you have been given a username and password for the online programs Musition and Auralia. You will have several online assignments to complete before school starts using these programs. If you have difficulty logging on, email your teacher for help!

**First-Day Quiz:** On the first day of school in August, there will be a diagnostic quiz on the topics listed on the following pages. Doing well on the quiz will require some summer studying, even with your prior music theory knowledge.

Good luck with your summer assignment and we look forward to starting up in August!

Sincerely,

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### **Concepts Covered:**

- Identify notes in treble, bass, alto, and tenor clefs
- Identify rhythmic symbols and their values
- Demonstrate understanding of meter signatures
- Demonstrate understanding of rhythmic notation and organization
- Notate and identify major scales
- Notate and identify all three forms of minor scales
- Identify major and minor key signatures
- Identify triad qualities, major, minor, augmented, and diminished

### **Summer Assignment Website:**

<http://john.steffa.net/IntroToTheory/introduction/ChapterIndex.html>

Your summer assignment is based on John Steffa's Music Theory Site. It was designed as an online course but you will use the site for instruction and the practice questions at the end of each chapter. If you find yourself in a chapter that you already know, skip to the last few pages of the chapter, find the practice questions, and answer them in the Summer Packet. You can always go back and review material that may be unfamiliar to you.

*The following website chapters are included in your summer packet:*

Chapter 1- Musical Symbols. Answer pages 11-12 in your summer packet.

Chapter 2- Note and Rest Values. Answer pages 9-10 in your summer packet.

Chapter 3- Rhythm. Answer pages 6-11 questions (skip the counting system on page 3).

Chapter 4- Meter Signatures- Answer pages 12-19 (skip the counting system on page 4-5)

Chapter 7- Major Scales. Answer pages 7-19 questions.

Chapter 8- Minor Scales. Answer pages 11-12 questions.

Chapter 9- Key Signatures. Answer pages 13-15 questions (skip pages 16-26).

Chapter 10- Triads. Answer pages 8-9 questions.

### **Additional Resources:**

[MusicTheory.net](http://MusicTheory.net)- This site has Flash-based lessons for note reading, rhythms, key signatures, scales, triads, and more. You can also find practice questions on these topics. You can set your topic and then click on the settings button for that trainer. In the Note Trainer for example, you can choose what clef you want to practice. If you need help figuring out a practice question, click on Toggle Helpers for guides.

[www.Teoria.com](http://www.Teoria.com): This website is similar to MusicTheory.net but contains more exercises in a different format. Teoria also has a lot of ear training exercises in which you can customize the settings before you start.

[Tonesavvy.com](http://Tonesavvy.com): More practice exercises for ear training. Simple to use and effective!