

JOHN BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL

AP Music Theory

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Welcome to AP Music Theory and congratulations on your exciting undertaking. Through the length of the course, you will develop your ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. We will work on these skills by utilizing listening exercises, performing exercises, written exercises, creative exercises, and analytical exercises. In May, you will be prepared to take the AP Music Theory exam. If you are planning on majoring in music, please check the AP policy with the institutions you would like to attend to determine how a passing score on this AP test will affect your placement.

Eligibility

In order to understand all concepts presented in the course, students enrolled need to have knowledge of basic music fundamentals. Students must be able to functionally read and write musical notation, have a simple understanding of the piano keyboard, and be willing to work on aural perception through sight singing. Students should also have an interest in developing creative works based on the skills acquired in this course.

Course Content

We will specifically cover the following concepts, which would be included in any first semester college music theory course.

- pitches
- intervals
- scales and keys
- chords
- metric organization
- rhythmic patterns
- melodic and harmonic dictation
- composition of a bass line for a given melody, implying appropriate harmony
- realization of a figured bass
- realization of a Roman numeral progression
- analysis of repertoire, including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and form
- sight-singing
- functional triadic harmony in traditional four-voice texture
- cadences
- melodic and harmonic compositional processes
- standard rhythms and meters
- phrase structure
- small forms
- modulation to closely related keys

I always loved music; whoso has skill in this art is of good temperament, fitted for all things. We must teach music in schools; a schoolmaster ought to have skill in music, or I would not regard him.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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Grading Policy

Aural Perception 20%

Weekly quizzes will be given to test progress in aural perception

Written Assignments 10%

Students are expected to complete a series of written assignments and return them in a timely manner

Creative Projects 30%

Students are expected to complete at least two creative projects per semester incorporating the concepts explored in class.

Analytical Projects 20%

Students will use concepts explored in class to analyze aural examples and musical scores from various genres.

Exams 20%

Comprehensive mid-term and final exams will be given at appropriate intervals throughout the course in the same format as a typical AP Theory Exam.

Classroom Policies

- 1) All BUSD and Burroughs High rules apply. If a student is found in violation of any of these guidelines, an administrator will be notified and the administrator will determine the consequences for said action. Consequences may include (but are not limited to) suspension, expulsion, and withdrawal from the course.
- 2) Students must be in their assigned seats with all music, folder, pencil, and necessary equipment when the bell rings or be marked tardy. Burroughs tardy policy will be strictly enforced.
- 3) Good manners, common courtesy, and positive attitude are expected of all students. Disruptive or defiant students will be given an office referral. Subsequent infractions will call for removal of the student from the class.

*We know an age more vividly through its music than through its historians.
Rosanne Ambrose-Brown*

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Supplies

Textbooks

Available through Burroughs' Library. Please do not write in the workbook; you will be fined if the book is returned with written work visible.

No. 2 Pencils

All work submitted in pen will be returned to the student without a grade.

Large Eraser

You will make mistakes, you will want this in your backpack for corrections!

Ruler

Staff Paper

You will need to take notes on staff paper. I recommend purchasing a notebook or printing enough blank staff paper to fill a binder.

We listen to great music and know that all our joys and sorrows are part of something beyond our comprehension - and so indefinitely valuable.

Jesse O'Neill