



WELCOME TO THE MUSIC THEORY CLASS!

Music is a language many of us speak, but few of us understand its syntax. In Music Theory, we listen to great music, and we explore how it works. The premise is that music is a language -- replete with meaning and grammar -- and we hope to discover why it has the effect on us that it does. What are the patterns -- the vocabulary -- that composers use, and how do they compare with and differ from each other? How do composers develop their ideas, and what compositional techniques are universally employed? How do composers create expectations, and do they fulfill them or frustrate them? These are some of the questions that make Music Theory a potentially rewarding course for students and teachers.

This class is designed to introduce you to the basics of music notation, melody, rhythms, chords, scales, intervals, and how music is constructed. You will learn how to read and analyze music, very basic keyboard skills, how to write, and listen to music. This knowledge is learned through signing, melodic and rhythmic dictation, written drills and worksheets, music analysis, computer assisted practice, and composition.

CLASS OBJECTIVES

- Notate pitch and rhythm in accordance with standard notation practices
- Read melodies in treble, bass, and moveable C clefs
- Write, sing and play major scales and all three forms of minor scales
- Recognize by ear and by sight all intervals within an octave
- Use the basic rules that govern music composition
- Harmonize a melody with appropriate chords using good voice leading
- Analyze the chords of a musical composition by number, letter name and function
- Transpose a composition from one key to another
- Express musical ideas by composing and arranging
- Understand and recognize basic musical forms: ternary, binary, rondo, etc.
- Write simple rhythmic, melodic and harmonic dictation

TEXT

We will not be using a textbook for this class, but rather a large collection of handouts and worksheets.

EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED

For this class, you will need the following everyday:

- 3-Ring Binder
- Several Mechanical Pencils (or good quality pencil - ex: Dixon Ticonderoga #2)
- A Good Quality Eraser (Stanford “Magic Rub” or Pentel “Click Eraser”)
- 6” Ruler
- Any handouts/assignments given to you

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

The student:

- will NEVER use a pen in this class.
- will keep their pencil sharp.
- will arrive to class on time.
- will be prepared for class with all required materials, as well as any other materials deemed appropriate by the teacher.
- will respect the opinions, strengths, and weaknesses of everyone else in the room.
- will not use any computer in the music suite unless given permission by the teacher.
- will not use iPods or other personal music players without the direct consent of the teacher.
- understands that gum, candy, food and drinks (other than water in a closable container) ARE NEVER PERMITTED in the Music Suite.
- will follow any other rules deemed necessary by the teacher.

CLASSROOM RULES

Besides for following the school rules and common sense, please be aware of the following:

- Be On Time and ready to learn when the bell rings.
- Respect yourself, each other, and Mr. Petersen.
- No food or drink (besides water) in the classroom.

Other rules will be added if and/or when needed.

CONSEQUENCES (FOR BREAKING ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES):

- ◆ 1st Demerit: Verbal Warning
- ◆ 2nd Demerit: Detention with Mr. Petersen
- ◆ 3rd Demerit: Parental Contact and/or Meeting with Principal and/or being sent to office

Certain behaviors may result in more than one demerit or removal from the class.

ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned on almost a daily basis. *Completion of daily homework is essential to being successful in this class!* Assignments are to be turned in on the day that they are due. (Please see below and consult your Student Handbook for information about excused absences and late work. Students do not have the right to make up assignments missed due to unexcused tardies or absences.) Late work will be accepted, but for a lowered grade (see below). Late work will be graded at the teacher's convenience. Each assignment must be handed in with your name, the name of the assignment, and the date. All assignments must be completed in PENCIL!

DHS Uniform Late-Work Policy: *Students are expected to turn in work on the date it is due. Any work that is not turned in when it is collected on that due date will be marked as a zero and missing in the grade book. Assignments that are received by the end of the school day up to two days after the assigned due date will be scored at 75% of credit earned. Assignments that are received on the third or fourth date after the assigned due date will be scored at 50% of credit earned. Students will receive no credit for assignments received five or more days late. For example, an assignment due Monday would be worth 75% earned credit until the end of the school day Wednesday and 50% the end of the day Friday. Students are encouraged to contact teachers at least one day in advance with requests for extensions or accommodations. It is at the teacher's discretion of the student need for extension to provide these accommodations.*

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments will vary, and may include, but are not limited to: Written tests/quizzes of both formative and summative nature (both aural and written), worksheets, classwork and other performance-based work, compositions, cooperative learning, etc.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

There will be assignments in this class where you have the liberty to solicit feedback from your peers. However, there will also be assignments, quizzes, and tests that will be completed without any aid from your peers and/or the teacher. Additionally, discussing assignment materials with those who have not completed the assignment is strictly forbidden. Cheating will not be tolerated. When you turn in these assignments/quizzes/tests, by writing your name on your, you are also indicating you agree to the following pledge:

I pledge my honor that I have neither given nor received help on this assignment/ examination, nor will I pass on information to others.

GRADES

You will be graded on the following:

50% - Formative Assessments, including but not limited to:

- Classwork collected for accuracy
- Homework graded for accuracy
- Ear training exercises
- Sight Singing Exercises

30% Summative Assessments, including but not limited to:

- Tests and Quizzes
- Ear training tests
- Sight singing tests

20% Daily Participation

- Being on task during class
- Participating in discussions
- Having required materials

CREDITS:

Upon the successful completion of this class, students will earn 0.5 fine arts credits.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

- I. Music Fundamentals
- II. Rhythms
- III. Major Scales & Keys
- IV. Intervals
- V. Major Chords/Triads
- VI. Inversions
- VII. Basic Major Chord Progressions
- VIII. Minor Keys
- IX. Minor Chord/Triads
- X. Basic Minor Chord Progressions
- XI. Harmonizing melodies in Major/Minor keys
- XII. Composing melodies in Major/Minor keys
- XIII. Analysis - Basic Forms
- XIV. 4-Part Writing

DEERFIELD MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Our Mission

**WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO PREPARE
ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS**

Our Vision

The middle/high school community will create a safe, supportive, respectful environment where all members are expected to engage in a learning process in which they are challenged to achieve their highest potential.



I have read the syllabus for the Music Technology class and understand the expectations set by it and Mr. Petersen.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please list the best way to contact you if I have any questions/concerns about your student's progress in this class: _____

This signature form is your first assignment - it is due on the second day of class.