



McLean Highlander Band

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AP Music Theory Summer Assignment 2018

Greetings AP Music Theory Students!

I am excited to get the opportunity to work with you all next year in this class. My hope is that you will leave the class at the end of the year having developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for music of all types, styles, and genres. The way that I am designing this class is that it will not solely be music theory. Instead, we will look at music theory as it relates to early music, classical/romantic era music, orchestral music, vocal music, band music, contemporary music, jazz, the history of rock, composition, arranging, film scoring, and current popular artists. The class will be a combination of listening, reading, discussion, singing, and ear training. My goal is to make the material easy to digest and relevant to your love of music, regardless of what you decide to do with it after high school.

The number one first requirement to be able to take this class is that you **MUST** already be able to read music. Only being able to read chord progressions, lead sheets, or guitar tab is not acceptable. If you cannot read music already, please sign up for a different elective class. You will not be able to keep up and we won't be able to wait for you.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS: DUE BY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

In order to jump-start our year, you are required to complete three modules via Google Classroom over the summer. On first sight, this looks like a lot of work, however you will see that it should go quickly. My suggestion is that you either do them now, or work on them weekly so that it is not overwhelming at the end of the summer. Prioritize and manage your time effectively to be able to get it all done (I'm looking at you – Marching Band people!).

Some or most of this summer material is very basic, but very important for you to complete. I am trying to level the playing field among all of our different backgrounds and give us a common knowledge-base to build upon when we start the school year. We all need to be on the same page and speaking the same language before we can explore topics that are more challenging. Be patient, work through it, and hopefully you will find it easy.

These modules should be self-explanatory, however if there is any part of it that you do not understand, please do not hesitate to contact me. These assignments in total are supposed to take less than 10 hours to complete. Some of you might be able to do the whole thing in an hour, depending on how much of this you've been exposed to already. If you find yourself taking a long time, chances are you need to ask for help. I am in and out of school all summer. We can meet face-to-face and work through materials together if you need it. I'm always available via email, so that is a great way to reach me if you have questions. Again, don't wait until the last minute and don't hesitate to ask if you need help!

The three modules due by the first day of school via Google Classroom are as follows:

Module #1 – Note Reading, Clefs, Annotation, Basic Rhythm, Dots

Module #2 – Sharps, Flats, Naturals, Key Signatures, Tetrachords, Major Scales, Chromatic Scale, Circle of 5ths, 16th Notes, Dotted Rhythms

Module #3 – Intervals, Introduction to Major Chords, Minor Chords and Progressions

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

We will use Google Classroom in this class as much as possible to communicate, turn in assignments and distribute work. Some of you will find that you like to print and work by hand on paper. Some of you will like to do it right on the computer. Either way is fine. Here are the methods of submission and some notes to help you:

1. Print on your own and complete by hand. Scan, upload to your Google drive, and submit via the assignment posted in Google classroom. If you don't have access to a scanner at home, there is one in the band room and one in the band office. You are free to use either.
2. Use a PDF editor online through Google Classroom. Instructions of how to edit and submit are here in a quick 3-minute video. It is easy, for those of you who do not want to do it by hand. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRmJb6n9xm8>
3. Use an app on your mobile device to edit and upload to Google drive. Submit via the same way. Apps that I have found are good for this are Notability, DocAs, ForScore, etc. There are many options on the app store so you can pick one that works for you.
4. If all else fails, print it, write it out by hand, and hand in the hard copies. I really would like to not deal with paper submissions as much as possible, so please only do this as a last resort.

GRADING:

This assignment will be worth an exam grade toward the 1st quarter.

OTHER RESOURCES:

<http://www.musictheory.net/> - There are mobile apps or web-based exercises/free online tutorials that work through the same skills in the modules. If you need extra practice, reinforcement, practice tests, or different instruction, this site might help you.

<https://www.teoria.com/> - same deal

I wish you the best as you begin your learning for AP Music Theory! Please contact me if you have any questions or need help along the way.



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