



## STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

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### ADVANCED PLACEMENT MUSIC THEORY

**(SUMMER WORK LISTED BELOW - please pick up your textbook before school ends!)**

*Greetings! I am so excited to have you as a part of this year's AP Music Theory course. I LOVE teaching theory and, now that I have gotten my feet wet teaching the AP course at Staples, I am looking forward to working with you!*

*Some information about the course:*

AP Music Theory is a college level course designed to teach students the necessary skills to successfully complete the College Board's Advanced Placement Music Theory Exam. Upon completion of the course, students will have developed the necessary ability to recognize, understand, and analyze compositional techniques both aurally and visually. Contextual listening, performance, creative/compositional, written, and analytical exercises will be implemented to develop these abilities and further student's knowledge of music of the Common Practice Period (1600-1900).

Students are encouraged to take the College Board's Advanced Placement Music Theory Examination in the spring. Students who successfully complete the exam and plan on majoring in music in college may be able to begin their college career in a more advanced music theory course depending on their college's policy regarding the acceptance of AP credit. For those not pursuing a music major, some colleges that will accept the AP Music Theory credit as an applied arts credit.

### **Scoring Components of the AP Music Theory Exam and Course Objectives:**

- Mastery of the rudiments and terminology of music: notational skills, scales, keys, intervals, chords, meter, and rhythm.
- Writing a bass line for a given melody, implying appropriate harmony, or harmonization of a given melody in four parts.
- Realization of a figured bass.
- Realization of a Roman numeral progression.
- Harmonic analysis

*The Westport Music Department's vision is to develop our students' artistic literacy and global awareness by growing their ability to create, perform and respond to diverse music at the highest level in a safe and nurturing environment.*

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- Motivic analysis
- Major, minor, modal, pentatonic, and whole tone scales.
- Functional triadic harmony in traditional four-voice texture, based on the common practice tonality.
- Non-chord tones/embellishment tones.
- Seventh chords.
- Secondary dominants.
- Modulation to closely related keys.
- Phrase structure
- Small forms: simple binary, rounded binary, ternary, theme and variation, strophic.
- Aural comprehension: intervals, scales, chords, dictations.
- Sight-singing.
- Contextual writing about music.
- Musical skills through creative exercises (composition).

## Primary Text

Clendinning and Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 3rd ed.  
New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016.

*There will be many, MANY supplemental resources that we will utilize.  
We will also make use of the AP Classroom website.*

## Additional Resources

Nancy Scoggin, *Barron's AP Music Theory*, 2nd ed. New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2014

## Materials

Students in AP Music theory will need to acquire a 3-ring binder that is solely dedicated to this class (minimum size, 1 inch), have access to a piano or electronic keyboard at home (a small, inexpensive keyboard will suffice), and a book of manuscript paper at home to use as a scratch pad when doing homework.

## SUMMER WORK (DUE BY THE START OF THE FIRST CLASS PERIOD:

1. Read chapters 1-6 in the textbook and take good notes **(PLEASE ARRANGE TO PICK THIS UP FROM MY BY THE END OF THE YEAR!)**. We may annotate these later.
2. Complete the "quizzes" I have created for you at musictheory.net. **YOU MUST SCORE 90% OR HIGHER BEFORE SUBMITTING!** Directions for submitting can be found below.
  - a. [Note identification](#) (Chapters 1 and 3)
  - b. [Key signature identification](#) (chapter 3)

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- c. [Scale identification](#) (Chapters 3 and 5)
- d. [Interval identification](#) (Chapter 6)

**SUBMITTING YOUR SCORES:** at the end of the quiz, you will see your score. If you scored 90% or higher, click “view report.” “Sign” your report, and then copy the link and email it to me: [pgiampietro@westportps.org](mailto:pgiampietro@westportps.org)

- 3. Register for my section of AP Music Theory at AP Classroom:
  - a. Visit this website: <https://myap.collegeboard.org/>
  - b. Enter my class code when prompted: EKGQY9

If you have any questions regarding the summer work, please contact me ([pgiampietro@westportps.org](mailto:pgiampietro@westportps.org)). I can't wait to get started!

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