

Music Theory
Course Syllabus 2023-2024
Course type: Elective
Location: Band room (316)
Teacher: Mr. Clewell, tclewell@shcsd.org

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the theory of music, providing them with a better understanding of the language of music. For many individuals, playing a musical instrument or singing is an enjoyable experience, but understanding how music functions at a deeper level can enhance one's musical experience. Topics that will be explored include; how to read notes on the treble and bass clefs, types of notes and rests, repeat signs and endings, dynamics, tempo, articulation, flats, sharps, naturals, major scales, minor scales, modes, key signatures, chromatic scales, intervals, solfege, transposition, how to count rhythm in a variety of time signatures, all chord types, figured bass, major chord progressions, harmonizing melodies, basic forms of music and much more. A portion of this course will be dedicated to the training of the ear to hear and recognize high and low sounds, melody, articulation, dynamics, scales, intervals, chords, and chord progressions. The ear training will also prepare you to dictate rhythmic and melodic patterns.

Goals for Students

- Understand and describe the characteristics of musical sound.
- Understand elements of tonality, key, modality, and scale structure.
- Demonstrate rhythmic accuracy in writing or performing.
- Interpret musical notations and symbols with appropriate techniques.
- Demonstrate the ability to aurally identify intervals, chord structure, and scales.
- Demonstrate the ability to dictate rhythm.
- Demonstrate the ability to dictate melody.
- Take responsibility for one's learning and be successful in this course.

Required Materials

- "Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory" textbook.
- Pencil
- Folder to keep materials organized.

Topics to be Studied

- Unit 1: The staff, notes, pitches, clefs and ledger lines.
- Unit 2: Note values, measures, time signatures, and rests.
- Unit 3: Time signatures, note values, ties, and slurs.
- Unit 4: Repeat signs, note and rest values.
- Unit 5: Dynamics, tempo, articulation, D.C., D.S., Coda and Fine.
- Unit 6: Flats, sharps, naturals, whole and half steps, and enharmonic notes.
- Unit 7: Tetrachords, major scales, and key signatures.
- Unit 8: Major scales, chromatic scales, intervals, circle of 5ths.
- Unit 9: Perfect and major intervals, minor intervals, augmented and diminished intervals, solfège and transposition.
- Unit 10: Sixteenth notes and rests, dotted notes, common time and cut time.
- Unit 11: 6/8 and 3/8 time signature, triplets, and incomplete measures.
- Unit 12: Triads (primary and major), scale degrees, the V7 (dominant seventh) chord.
- Unit 13: Triads inverted, V7 chord inverted, figure bass, and chord progressions.
- Unit 14: Minor scales, minor triads, augmented and diminished triads.
- Unit 15: Primary triads in minor keys, minor chord progressions, mode scales.
- Unit 16: Harmonizing a melody in major, arpeggiated chords, passing and neighboring tones.
- Unit 17: Harmonizing a melody in minor, arpeggiated chords, blues chord progression, and the blues scale.
- Unit 18: Basic forms of music

Grading

- All homework assignments will be graded unless specified otherwise.
- All classwork including; bookwork, notes taken in class, worksheets, and homework assignments are excellent resources to help you prepare for unit tests.
- All assignments (*including online assignments*) must be turned in on time. Points will be deducted for assignments turned in after the due date.
- All grades will be reported on a points scale system.

Procedures

- 1) Enter the room quietly and begin setting up for the day. Personal belongings may be kept at your seat.
- 2) Be in your seat and ready to learn at the sound of the final bell.
- 3) At the end of class, put all materials away and take all of your belongings with you.

Expectations

- 1) Report to class on time. Three (3) times tardy will result in an office discipline referral.
- 2) Be prepared with your workbook, homework, and a pencil.
- 3) Be actively engaged in class. Your attention is essential!
- 4) Show kindness and respect to others. Be a good listener!
- 5) **CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING CLASS! Cell phones are to be put away for the duration of the class period. Failure to cooperate will result in an office discipline referral.**
- 6) Work hard, study, take responsibility, and ask questions.

Behavior Procedure

For students engaging in disruptive or inappropriate behavior, the following steps will be followed.

1. Conference with the student to discuss behavior concerns.
2. Email or phone call with the parents/guardians.
3. Discipline referral to the HS/MS principal.

Google Classroom & Online Instruction

Google Classroom will be utilized throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Students are expected to check Google Classroom for new assignments or class announcements regularly. All assignments, whether online or in-person, are a requirement of the course. Assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Points will be deducted for assignments that are turned in late.