



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced Placement Music Theory
(MU 9226)
One Credit Per Year
Grades 10-12

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This college-level course designed for students with above average ability in music. Students will engage in intensive study of all aspects of music theory including notation, dictation, ear training, sight-singing and harmonic analysis in accordance with the guidelines established by the Advanced Placement Committee of the College Board.

Students will engage in intensive study of all aspects of music theory including fundamental notation terminology, compositional skills, analysis, and aural skills (ear training, dictation, and sight singing). The primary emphasis is placed on music of the Common Practice Period (1600-1750). Students enrolled in AP Music Theory are highly encouraged to be active in some form of music performance course.

PREREQUISITE

Previous music experience and/or Music Theory I & II; or, with teacher's approval

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

None

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Tonal Harmony: With and Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music and accompanying workbook, Seventh Edition, *Kostka & Payne*

**VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES
FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT MUSIC THEORY**

- HMT.1 The student will demonstrate understanding of the elements of the grand staff by
1. Identifying the elements of staves and clefs; and
 2. Labeling the octaves and pitches of the grand staff.
- HMT.2 The student will demonstrate understanding of pitch locations in aural, keyboard, and notation activities by
3. Correlating the grand staff pitch locations to placements on the keyboard;
 4. Explaining the symbols for sharp, flat, and natural; and
 5. Identifying enharmonic equivalents.
- HMT.3 The student will demonstrate understanding of the components of rhythmic notation by
6. Explaining beat (pulse), rhythm, and tempo;
 7. Reading and notating rhythmic patterns that include whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and corresponding rests; groupings; beaming practices; tie vs. Slur; dot;
 8. Identifying and explaining anacrusis, syncopation, and hemiola;
 9. Performing simple rhythmic patterns, using a counting system; and
 10. Notating simple rhythmic dictation from aural examples.
- HMT.4 The student will demonstrate understanding of the components of meter by
11. Defining *measure*, *bar line*, and *time signature*; and
 12. Explaining meters, including simple, compound, and complex/asymmetrical.
- HMT.5 The student will demonstrate understanding of scales by
13. Defining *interval* as the distance between two pitches;
 14. Explaining the interval of a half step (m2) and a whole step (M2);
 15. Explaining tetrachord patterns;
 16. Explaining major, minor, and chromatic scales;
 17. Notating ascending and descending major, minor, and chromatic scales, using key signatures and accidentals;
 18. Performing major, minor, and chromatic scales, using the voice and keyboard; and
 19. Differentiating scale patterns from aural examples.
- HMT.6 The student will demonstrate understanding of key signatures by
20. Defining *key signature*;
 21. Identifying the order of sharps and flats in key signatures;
 22. Explaining the circle of fifths;
 23. Explaining relative and parallel major-minor key relationships; and
 24. Writing major and minor key signatures in treble and bass clefs.
- HMT.7 The student will demonstrate understanding of diatonic and chromatic intervals by
25. Explaining and notating intervals by size and quality (M, m, P, d, A), including inversions;
 26. Defining *consonance* and *dissonance*;
 27. Identifying and explaining harmonic and melodic intervals;
 28. Identifying and explaining simple and compound intervals;
 29. Identifying aural examples of simple intervals; and
 30. Performing simple intervals.
- HMT.8 The student will identify diatonic scale degrees by

31. Relating the names of the scale degrees (tonic, supertonic, mediant, subdominant, dominant, submediant, leading tone, subtonic) to their positions in the diatonic scale;
32. Using upper-case and lower-case Roman numerals and chord abbreviations to designate triad quality (M, m, d, A) and scale degree; and
33. Identifying I, IV, and V chords as primary chords.

HMT.9 The student will demonstrate understanding of triadic structure by

34. Identifying root, third, and fifth of a chord;
35. Defining *tertian harmony*;
36. Explaining triads by quality (M, m, d, A);
37. Comparing and contrasting the qualities of chords in major and minor keys;
38. Explaining and notating root-position, first-inversion, and second-inversion triads;
39. Explaining the figured bass system for triads;
40. Explaining lead sheet symbols;
41. Analyzing chord progressions from classical and popular musical scores; and
42. Recognizing and explaining types and uses of non-chord tones.

HMT.10 The student will demonstrate aural skills by

43. Singing a simple melody at sight;
44. Singing simple rhythmic patterns in all meters;
45. Notating simple melodies and rhythms from aural examples; and
46. Notating simple diatonic harmonies and cadences from aural examples.

HMT.11 The student will identify and define common music symbols and terminology, including those for dynamics, form, tempo, texture, and melody.

HMT.12 The student will apply the theory concepts studied by

47. Composing a two-phrase diatonic melody;
48. Setting a text to an original melody;
49. Harmonizing a melody;
50. Following the general rules of voice leading and tendency tones;
51. Arranging existing musical material; and
52. Using contemporary technology, including notational, theory, and aural skills programs.

HMT.13 The student will demonstrate understanding of the principles of acoustics and the overtone series by relating pitch to frequency of sound waves, amplitude to volume, and timbre to tone quality.

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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning.
For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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