**Theory 1**

**George Jenkins High School**

**Instructor:** Branigan Lawrence

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# COURSE DESCRIPTION

A beginning music theory course in the basic elements of music rhythms, meter notation, key signatures, scales, intervals, triads and cadence types.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course covers the fundamentals of tonal music theory; pitch notation in treble and bass clefs; rhythm and meter; major and minor scales; intervals; triads and seventh chords. The course also introduces some basic principles of harmony and form; cadences (authentic, half, and plagal), as well as some popular music forms. The fundamentals covered apply to a broad range of styles: classical music from about 1600 to 1900, some jazz, and popular music.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has four main objectives, or outcomes:

* Students will gain fluency in the fundamentals of tonal music theory.
* Students will be prepared to undertake the sequence of theory courses offered.
* Non-musicians will be able to read basic music notation and have enough of an idea of how music is put together to write some of their own music.
* Students will learn to establish the difference between simple expression and communication through song, and how to establish a musical dialogue with the listener.

# CLASSROOM POLICY

**Turning in Assignments:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend each class. During class, you will have the opportunity to hear me go over the material, work on class work to develop your skills and knowledge and ask questions about the material.

**Behavior:**

Students are expected to always treat others with respect. When someone is talking or asking a question, all students should be listening as it may help resolve questions you have.

**Students are expected to follow the PCPS Code of Conduc**t.

# GRADING

In accordance with PCPS policy, grades will be calculated in the following manner:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter | Range | Letter | Range | Letter | Range |
| A | 90 or above | B | 80-89 | C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-60 | F | 59 or less |  |  |

**Conduct grades** are based on the student’s behavior during class, field trips, or any time the student is in the presence of the teacher. Lack of satisfactory conduct may prohibit a student from participating in extracurricular activities and field trips. Consequences are as follows:

**1st offense** = warning

**2nd offense** = conference for the record with teacher

**3rd offense** = parent contact/conference with teacher/team

**4th offense** = referral to administrator

Materials

* [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net/)
* staff paper (you can download this from music [theory.net](http://theory.net/) or you may purchase this at Staples or Amazon.com)
* pencils

# See Class Schedule on Next Page

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week 1  8/11 | * Course Introduction * Syllabus Review |
| Week 2  8/14-8/18 | * Musical Contour * Introduction to Pitch Notation: Letter Names * The Piano Keyboard: Naming White Keys |
| Week 3  8/21-8/25 | * Staff Notation * Treble and Bass Clefs * Naming Pitches with Octave Numbers |
| Week 4  8/28-9/1 | * Ledger Lines * The Grand Staff * Writing Music in a Score |
| Week 5  9/5-9/8 | * Sharps, Flats, and Naturals * Double Sharps and Double Flats * Writing Pitches with Accidentals |
| Week 6  9/11-9/15 | * Half Steps and Whole Steps * Hearing Half Steps and Whole Steps |
| Week 7  9/18-9/22 | * Duple, Triple, Quadruple Meter * Tempo Markings and Conducting Patterns |
| Week 8  9/25-9/29 | • Rhythmic Notation  • Meter Signatures |
| Week 9  10/2-10/6 | * Counting Rhythms in Simple Meters * Rests |
| Week 10  10/9-10/13 | * Beat Subdivisions * Ties and Slurs |
| Week 11  10/17-10/20 | * Syncopation * Triplets * Rhythmic Variation in Performance |
| Week 12  10/23-10/27 | * REVIEW * Quiz |
| Week 13  10/30-11/3 | * Scales * Scale Degrees * Writing Major Scales |
| Week 14  11/6-11/9 | * Major Key Signatures |
| Week 15  11/13-11/17 | • The Circle of Fifths |
| Week 16  11/20-11/24 | THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| Week 17  11/27-12/1 | * Subdivisions * Other Compound Meters |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week 18  12/4-12/8 | * Syncopation and Duplets * Asymmetrical Meters and Changing Meters |
| Week 19  12/11-12/15 | * Parallel Keys * Natural Minor |
| Week 20, 21  12/18-1/3 | WINTER BREAK |
| Week 22  1/4-1/5 | • Harmonic Minor   * Melodic Minor |
| Week 23  1/8-1/12 | * Comparing Scale Types * Relative Keys |
| Week 24  1/16-1/19 | * Minor Key Signature and the Circle of Fifths * Identifying the Key from a Score |
| Week 25  1/22-1/26 | * Intervals * Interval Quality |
| Week 26  1/29-2/2 | * Inverting Intervals * Spelling Intervals |
| Week 27  2/5-2/9 | * Augmented and Diminished Intervals * Compound Intervals * Consonance and Dissonance |
| Week 28  2/12-2/16 | * Triads * Triad Qualities in Major Keys |
| Week 29  2/20-2/23 | * Triad Qualities in Minor Keys * Spelling Triads |
| Week 30  2/26-3/1 | • Triad Inversion |
| Week 31  3/4-3/8 | * Dominant Seventh Chord * Spelling the Dominant Seventh Chord |
| Week 32  3/11-3/15 | **SPRING BREAK** |
| Week 33  3/18-3/22 | * Seventh Chord Inversion |
| Week 34  3/25-3/28 | • Triads built on 1, 4, 5 and Seventh Chord on 5 |
| Week 35  4/1-4/5 | • Cadence Types |
| Week 36  4/8-4/12 | • Song Project |
| Week 37  4/15-4/19 | • Song Project |
| Week 38  4/22-4/26 | • Song Project |
| Week 39  4/29-5/3 | • Song Project |
| Week 40  5/6-5/10 | • Song Project |
| Week 41  5/13-5/17 | • Final Exam |
| Week 42  5/20-5/24 | • Band and Orchestral Instruments |
| Week 43  5/28-5/30 | • End of Year Wrap Up |