



Course Overview

High School I 9-12 | AP Music Theory - Last Updated on April 2, 2025

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- SVSD learners will emerge from the K-12 music program as proficient readers, writers, creators, and analyzers of music resulting in a strong foundation for future musical endeavors.
- Students will develop comprehensive musical knowledge and appreciation through diverse, in-depth musical experiences blending theory, history, technology, and ensemble participation creating an understanding of music in a globalized world.
- Participation in these diverse musical experiences will also bolster learners' self-discipline, collaborative abilities, empathy, and leadership—all qualities that will enhance their capacity for success in future occupational, social and creative pursuits.
- Graduates of the SVSD music program will depart with a lifelong love and appreciation for music resulting in continued musical exploration beyond their formal K-12 education.

Course Description

The Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory course is designed to provide high school students with a collegiate level understanding of music theory concepts and sight singing skills. This course explores fundamental music topics including musical notation, rhythm, harmony, melody, form, and composition. Through a combination of analysis of musical pieces and hands-on practice, students develop a deep appreciation for the intricacies of music.

After developing competency in fundamental music concepts, student progress to advanced concepts such as chord progressions, modulation, and musical analysis. Students showcase their skills through the creation of their own compositions that are based on the Common Practice Period music theory rules described in the course. Students also develop their aural skills, or the ability to recognize and understand music by ear. By the end of the course, students are prepared to take the AP Music Theory Exam.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grades 9-12 - Music

- 9.1: 9.1.12.A 9.1.12.B 9.1.12.C 9.1.12.F 9.2: 9.2.12.A 9.2.12.C 9.3:
- 9.3.12.C 9.1.12.G 9.2.12.B 9.2.12.D 9.2.12.E 9.2.12.J 9.2.12.L 9.3.12.A

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives for this course are aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities.



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ASSESSMENT TYPES

Forms of Assessment to Measure Course Objectives:

- Formative
- Summative
- Performance-based

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Fine Arts:

- Instructional Components outlined in *The Framework for Teaching* by Charlotte Danielson

RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
Rogers, N., & Ottman, R. W. (2013). <i>Music for Sight Singing</i> (9th ed.). Pearson. Kostka, S., Payne, D., & Almen, B. (2012). <i>Tonal Harmony</i> . McGraw Hill .		Noteflight.com, Music Theory.net