

AP Music Theory Syllabus

Ms. Pyle – Lake Dallas High School

2026 - 2027

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This syllabus outlines the course plan for your child's class this semester, including key topics, expectations, and how you can support their success. As required by Texas law (Senate Bill 12), this document serves as the instructional plan and is available for your review. I look forward to working with you and your child!

Contact Information

- **Teacher:** Mikaela Pyle
 - **Email:** mpyle@ldisd.net
 - **Best Way to Reach Me:** Email. I'll respond within 24 hours on school days.
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Course Overview (Instructional Plan)

This semester, your child will study the following topics in AP Music Theory, based on Texas state standards (TEKS):

1. Review of music fundamentals, including: scales, key signatures, circle of fifths, intervals, triads, and inversions
2. Daily ear training, including rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation
3. Weekly sight-singing using solfege for pitches
4. The study of modes
5. The study of figured bass
6. The study of two-part counterpoint
7. The study of four-part harmony
8. The study of seventh chords
9. The study of secondary-dominant functions

10. The study of musical form
11. The study of common compositional techniques
12. The study of part writing and harmonization
13. The study of melodic and harmonic dictation

Necessary Materials

1" Ring Binder
 Music Staff Paper (*can be printed online*)
 Pencil
 Textbook/Workbook*

*The textbook provided by Lake Dallas ISD that we will use in class and at home is:

Clendinning, J. P., & Marvin, E. W. (2016). *Anthology for the musician's guide to theory and analysis*. W.W. Norton & Company.

Lesson Plan Calendar

8/12	Introductions, Syllabus Elements of Pitch, Notes on a Keyboard Octave Numbers
8/17	The Major Scale, Scale Degree Names, Major Scale Assignment Key Signatures, Major Key Signatures Assignment
8/24	Element of Rhythm (Part I), Sight Singing Intervals (Part I), Perfect and Major Intervals
8/31	Intervals (Part II and Part III) Interval Identification Practice and Assignment
9/3	TEST I - note identification, major scale, key signatures, intervals
9/8	Review TEST I, Modes of the Major Scale Melodies Using Modes, Modes of the Major Scale (Part II)
9/14	Minor Scales (Part I) Minor Scales (Part II), Relative and Parallel Keys Scale Inventory, Singing in Minor, Element of Rhythm (Part II)
9/21	Element of Rhythm (Part III), Time Signature / Meter Classification
9/25	TEST II - modes and rhythm (and all material from TEST I)
9/28	Review Test II Triads (Part I), Major and minor Triads worksheet Triads (Part II), diminished and Augmented Triads worksheet
10/5	Triads (Part III), Find the Snowman, Triads Assignment Leadsheet Notation, Intro to Two Part Dictation

----- end of 1st Nine Weeks

10/13 Baseline Assessment, Two Part Dictation Practice
Seventh Chords (Major 7th)

10/19 Seventh Chords (Dominant 7th)
Seventh Chords (minor 7th)
Seventh Chords (half diminished 7th and fully diminished 7th)

10/26 Seventh Chords Practice, Triad / Seventh Chord Assignment
Diatonic Triads and Seventh Chords in a Major Key
Diatonic Triads and Seventh Chords in a minor Key

11/4 TEST III - *seventh chords and diatonic triads*

11/9 Inversion Symbols in Roman Numeral Notation
Diatonic Chords Assignment, Harmonic Analysis, Introduce Holiday Song Project
Harmonic Analysis

11/16 Harmonic Analysis and December Project
THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/30 Harmonic Analysis Assignment
Part Writing (Part I)
Part Writing (Part II)

12/7 ***Holiday Solfege Project Transcription Due***, Part Writing (Part III)
Harmonic Analysis Quiz, Part Writing (Example I, II, III)
Harmonic Analysis Assignment

12/14 HOLIDAY SOLFEGE PROJECT DUE, *Holiday Party*
Review

----- end of 2nd Nine Weeks

WINTER BREAK

1/5 Refresh and Review
Part Writing Big Picture

1/11 Resolution Rules (Level II)
Part Writing Assignments

1/19 Cadences

1/25 Practice AP Questions

1/29 TEST IV - *part writing*

2/1 Non-Harmonic Tones (Part I)
Non-Harmonic Tones (Part II)

2/8 Secondary Function Chords (Part I)
Secondary Function Chords (Part II)

Figured Bass (Part I)

- 2/16 Figured Bass (Part II), Realizing Figured Bass
Figured Bass AP Examples, Personalized Learning
- 2/22 Review Figured Bass, Personalized Learning
Review non-harmonic tones and secondary function chords
- 3/3 TEST V - non-harmonic tones, secondary function chords, and figured bass**
Review Test V, Melody Harmonization
- 3/8 Review Melody Harmonization
3/ Practice AP Questions

SPRING BREAK

----- end of 3rd Nine Weeks

- 3/22 Review Melody Harmonization
Practice AP Questions
- 3/29 Realized Figured Bass and Melody Harmonization
Part-Writing
- 4/5 Review for Test
4/9 TEST VI - melody harmonization, realized figured bass, dictation
- 4/12 Texture in Music
Second Inversion Chords
Melody Construction, Vocabulary
- 4/19 Period Forms, Vocabulary
4/23 TEST VII - Free Response Questions
- 4/26 Review / Discuss Test
PRACTICE AP TEST
- 5/3 FRQ Practice

5/10 AP MUSIC THEORY EXAM - 12:00pm

- 5/11 Plan for End of Year (Party) and Final Project

----- end of 4th Nine Weeks

Thank you for supporting your child's education! Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,
Ms. Pyle