AP Music Theory
At J W Mitchell high School
Summer Assignments

Music Theory is the study of where beauty meets form. If Music Theory was the study of automobiles, Music Theorists would be required to understand why both a Mustang and a Ferrari are visually appealing, and explain how using correct terminology. They would also be able to describe how all the machinery in both vehicles work and interact to make them move, from the ignition all the way to the exhaust pipe. This idea, of talking academically about aesthetics and function, is the crux of Music Theory.

To make sure that Music Theory is an enjoyable experience, students will need to accomplish certain things before the first week of school. Students will be expected to know how to read music in every clef (Treble, Alto, Tenor, and Bass Clef), and have a basic understanding of how to listen to music. Two assignments are listed below that cover these two topics.

Note Reading:
Students will complete 100 note identification problems successfully on Musictheory.net. This assignment will be graded on completion.
   Directions:
   - Go to the website musictheory.net
   - Click the exercises tab on the top ribbon
   - Under Staff identification click note identification
   - Click the gear in the upper right hand corner, and the click clefs
   - Make sure Treble, Bass, Alto, and tenor clefs have a check mark
   - Get 100 note identification problems correct under these settings
   - Click on the three dots in the upper right hand corner, and then select "show progress report"
   - Sign the progress report, select print, and then email me that report by either scanning a printed copy, or saving it as a PDF from the print dialogue box.

How to Listen to Music:
Students will read "What to Listen for in Music" by Aaron Copland (approximately $7 as of 5/24/2017 on Amazon). This book will be used as a point of reference during classroom discussions on aural skills, as well as providing material to furnish an essay that will be assigned on the first day of class.