**Music Theory Outline**

Director of Bands: Andrew Sheffer

717-432-8691 ex. 2019

[asheffer@nycsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:asheffer@nycsd.k12.pa.us)

**What is music theory?**

A common question that can be answered as a class that allows students to think critically about music and act on ways brought to us through the history of music. We are going to study music around the era of the Common Practice Period. This period sets us up for the music that we have now and everything that we hold true.

**So, what does that mean for us?**

This means that we are going to be studying music in one school of thought. Music can be broken down into many different ideas and the way that we study music will be very different from another.

**Great, so what does this class look like?**

Well days 2-5 we are going to study the actual break down of music and analyze, interpret, compose, arrange, and perform the basic history of music. Days 1 and 6 we will practice what is called aural skills. Aural skills will involve singing, playing the piano, and dictation exercises to the theory that we are talking about on the other days. Yes, you will have to sing in this class!! I am not looking for the next great opera singer, but simply can you match pitch and demonstrate an understanding of concepts. On Friday’s we will take about half of the class listening to music and doing an appreciation unit again focusing on chords, structure, form, ect. We will focus on the skills that we were studying in class.

**What does the unit break down look like?**

* Unit 1: Music Fundamentals part 1. This is where we will talk about notes, intervals, clefs, the piano keyboard, scales, and other basic functions to act as the building block of music that we study.
* Unit 2: Music Fundamentals part 2. This is where we will take the prior knowledge and add in elements of meter, rhythm, duration, and notation.
* Unit 3: Hormonic Organization and Form. This is where we will understand Roman Numeral Analysis and Figured Bass analysis to better understand how we analyze music from the Common Practice Period.
* Unit 4: Harmonic Organization and Form. In this unit, we will take the basic Roman Numeral Analysis and add in different factors such as key changes, secondary dominance, modes, and many other more in depth factors.
* This brings us to the end of the first semester. We will have a mid-term exam, which will act more as the final because this is essentially the end of the information needed.
* Unit 5: Instrumentation and Transposition: This unit we will talk about the instrumentation of different ensembles and what makes them sound the way they do. The second part of this unit is transposition and timbre. We will study why instruments sound the way they do and what makes them play in different keys and what keys they play in. During the aural skills day, we will do some dictation based on these instruments and we may even take some time to play these instruments. This unit will end with a transposition project.
* Unit 6: Music Writing and Technology. This is an entirely project based unit where you will compose your own piece of music with my stipulations, and then learn about musicnote and finale.
* Unit 7: Real Life Application to Music. If time allows this unit will be another project based unit where you will take every skill that we have learned in class and create your own mini rock band and play some music of your choosing.

**Grades?**

In class assignments – 25 points

Weekly mini-quizzes – 25 points

Homework – 25 points

Notebook checks – 10 points

Listening forms – 15 points

Unit Tests – 50 points

Mid-term exam – 75 points

Roman Numeral Analysis Project- 50 points

Transposition Project- 50 points

Composition Project – 50 points

Rock Band Project – 50 points

Total = 425 points