**Honors Music Theory**

Grades 10-12

Full year course

**Prerequisites**

Must be in band or choir or, if student is a musician but not involved in the school music program, they must pass an aptitude test on basic pitch/rhythm notation

**Objectives**

* Students will be able to perform melodic and harmonic analysis and composition/arranging with diatonic chords and pitches
* Students will understand and recognize style characteristics of music from the three periods of the Common Practice Era as well as certain forms of modern pop music
* Students will be able to aurally recognize and imitate intervals, scales, and melody using solfege

**Course Description**

The Honors Music Theory course was taught as a combination of teacher-centered and student-centered learning. New concepts were first taught through lecture and repetition by means of classwork and homework. Once students had a grasp on the new material, they would break up into their groups or “bands” and experiment with these new concepts through improvisation and composition.

Students would also have the opportunity to work on their musical ear through solfege singing of intervals, scales, and melody, as well as dictation of the same. This was typically worked on as a class and tested individually and privately.

Aside from basic musical constructs, students also learned about style characteristics of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, as well as some blues and jazz. Historical context, including biographical information about composers, was taught alongside the style characteristics to paint a fuller picture of each musical era. Activities included listening to recordings and performing simple analyses of key, melody, harmony, rhythm, and instrumentation.

Assessments for this course included exams, compositions (with rubrics outlining expectations for both the final copy of the composition as well as the students’ performance of said composition), weekly quizzes, classwork, and homework.

**Technology Integration**

* Finale (for creating a clean, readable copy of their compositions)
* ProTools (for recording performances of student compositions)