



THOMAS DALE HIGH SCHOOL

3626 West Hundred Road • Chester, Virginia 23831
Telephone: (804) 768-6245 • FAX (804) 768-6256

Thomas Dale High School

AP Music Theory (AR713H) *Curriculum Overview*

Course Description: Music Theory provides an opportunity to study the mechanics of western music: melody, harmony, rhythm, formal structure, and music notation. Content will focus on the rules and techniques of functional harmony, which encompasses the music of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods as well as contemporary popular music. Students will analyze music composed by master composers as an aid to understanding.

Text: *Tonal Harmony* by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne.

Required Materials:

- 3-ring binder for worksheets and study guides
- 3-hole punch 5-line music staff paper
- Pencils (pens are not acceptable or useful)

Applications: Students will be qualified to take the AP Music Theory test in the spring. Many colleges will accept a passing grade enabling the student to opt out of first semester college theory.

Course Content: To view the AP music course content, please go to the website:
apcentral.collegeboard.com/repository/ap04_music_cd_0506_4324.pdf
This is the official AP website.

Assessment and Evaluation: Students will be evaluated by written and aural testing. Theory skills will include homework, written projects, quizzes and tests. Aural testing includes ear-training exercises and harmonic, rhythmic, and melodic dictation. Additionally, the instructor may consider class participation as part of the final grade.

Prerequisites: Students should have a solid understanding of the fundamentals of music, such as major scales, key signatures, simple intervals, and basic major and minor chord construction. Students should also be functional in both treble and bass clefs.