

Lafayette choir

Mr. Ryan Marsh, Director • Ms. Laura Gabbard, Vocal Instructor/Director
401 Reed Lane • Lexington, Kentucky 40503 • 859-381-3492
www.lafayettechoir.org

AP Music Theory Students and Parents,

You are receiving this letter because you or your son/daughter is enrolled in A.P. Music Theory. Please take the time to read all of the information below so that you understand the demands of the course. After you have read this, please send me an email to acknowledge that you have received the information – ryan.marsh@fayette.kyschools.us. Please feel free to contact me via the email address or phone number above if you have any questions or problems. You will be expected to take a diagnostic exam on the first day of classes. Please use the information in this letter to help you prepare.

About the Course

Advanced Placement courses are the most advanced courses taught at Lafayette. They are presented on a college level, using a college level text. Each May, students that are enrolled in A.P. courses take a national standardized exam to test their knowledge in their A.P. subject. Students who score well have the potential to receive college credit. Taking the exam is required.

Summer Preparation

As with many Advanced Placement courses, we are providing a summer preparation list. We have much content to cover during the year including extensive aural training therefore students are expected to do preparatory work prior to the first day of class. Since most of the students enrolled are students with previous music theory experience, this work will primarily be review. We have found that even students with prior theory background are rusty or have holes in their knowledge. This work is imperative to a successful year. Those students with no prior music theory experience will benefit from this summer study and this will place them in good standing for the coming year.

The Test

On the first day of class, there will be a diagnostic test including the below listed topics. The test will require some summer study from you, even if you have prior music theory background. Please review, and work to understand this material. Also there are activity pages to complete and bring to class with you on the first day.

Attached is a list of topics that will be covered on the test as well as several internet sources for you to consult for instruction and practice questions. Parents, please encourage your students to not neglect this work! **DO NOT** wait until the day before to look at this. There is a lot of information to cover. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for any help you may need.

Remember to send Mr. Marsh an email to acknowledge this letter: ryan.marsh@fayette.kyschools.us

Sincerely,

Ryan Marsh



Lafayette High School – AP Music Theory Summer Work list

Concepts

- Identify notes on treble, bass, alto and tenor clefs
- Identify rhythmic symbols and their values
- Demonstrate understanding of meter signatures
- Demonstrate understanding of rhythmic notation and organization
- Notate and identify major scales
- Notate and identify all three forms of the minor scales
- Identify major and minor key signatures
- Identify triad qualities, major, minor, augmented and diminished

In order to prepare for this test, you should use the resources below.

Murray State Theory Site

For your primary source, you should consult the Music Theory Site of Murray State University. The Murray State website is designed for use by Murray State students and for students outside the university. You will not be enrolling for credit or taking exams. You will be using the site for instruction and for practice questions which are found at the end of each chapter. If you find yourself in a chapter that you already know, skip to the last few pages of the chapter and do the practice questions. You can always go back and review material that may be unfamiliar to you.

Go to <http://ridge-music.com/IntroToTheory/introduction/ChapterIndex.htm>

The Chapters you should complete are listed below:

- Ch. 1 - Musical Symbols [Complete and Print Pg 10&11](#)
- Ch. 2 - Note and Rest Values [Complete and Print Pg 9&10](#)
- Ch. 3 - Rhythm (however, you do not have to know the counting system on page 3)
- Ch. 4 - Meter Signatures (you do not have to know the counting system, pp. 4-5)
[Complete and Print Pg 12](#)
- Ch. 7 - Major Scales (pages 14-19 will be challenging; you should attempt them, but realize that you won't be expected to do this perfectly in August.)
[Complete and Print Pg 7](#)
- Ch. 8 - Minor Scales (you do not need to do pages 12, 15, 19-24)
[Complete and Print Pg 11](#)
- Ch. 9 - Key Signatures (you do not need to do pages 23-26)
[Complete and Print Pg 14](#)
- Ch. 10 Triads (Pg 1-9)

YOU MUST Bring your completed/printed worksheets
to class with you on the first day.

Supplemental Practice:

MusicTheory.Net

Another website that will be helpful is www.musictheory.net. At this site, you can find lessons (instruction) on several topics, including note reading, rhythmic values, key signatures, scales and triads. You can also find trainers (practice questions) on these topics. You can set the parameters of what you want to practice by choosing your topic and then clicking on the settings button for that trainer. In the Note Trainer, for instance, you can choose which clef you want to practice. If you need help figuring out a practice question, click on Toggle Helpers for guides. In the trainers section, there is no set number of questions. The trainer will keep giving you problems until you use your back button to return to the starting page. This is a great way to build up speed on note reading and key signatures.

EasyMusicTheory.Com

You may also wish to consult www.easymusictheory.com for free lessons on some basic concepts.

www.LafayetteChoir.org/aptheory

This summer work list and links are also available on the AP Theory site hosted on the Lafayette Choir Website (www.lafayettechoir.org),

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance or further explanation. Don't let this intimidate you – but use this as an opportunity to prepare yourself for a successful year!

Good luck in your preparation.

The table below is the suggested sequence and practice questions to guide your summer study. Do each section until you feel comfortable. Remember, you need to show competency in **each skill area**, not be perfect in some and clueless in others.

musictheory.net	TOPIC	Murray State website
Lessons: The Staff, Clefs and Ledger lines Note Duration Rest Duration Dots & Ties Steps & Accidentals Trainers: Note Trainer (all clefs) Keyboard Trainer	MUSICAL SYMBOLS	Chapter 1: Musical Symbols pages 1-10 Practice Questions 1 (p. 11) Practice Questions 2 (p. 12) Chapter 2: Note & Rest Values pages 1-7 and 9 Practice Questions 1 (p. 10) Practice Questions 2 (p. 11), 1-7
Lessons: Measures & Time Signatures Simple & Compound Meter	RHYTHMIC ORGANIZATION	Chapter 3: Rhythm page 1 (all) page 2 (only need quadruple meter) page 3-5 (use your own counting system) Practice Questions 1 (p. 6) Ear Training Rhythm (p. 7-11) Chapter 4: Meter Signatures pages 1-11 (p.6, p.7 are very important) Practice Questions 1 (p. 12) Practice Questions 2 (p. 13) Ear Training Rhythm (p. 14-16)
Lessons: The Major Scale The Minor Scale Trainers: Scale Ear Trainer (turn "church modes" off)	SCALES	Chapter 7: Major Scales (ignore stuff about modes) pages 1-6 Practice Questions (p. 7) ignore #1 Ear Training Scales (p. 8) Ear Training Rhythm (p. 11-13) Chapter 8: Minor Scales pages 1-10 Practice Questions (p. 11) ignore #2 Ear Training Scales (p. 13-14) Ear Training Rhythm (p. 16-18)
Lessons: Key Signatures Trainers: Key Trainer practice Major and minor, in all clefs	KEY SIGNATURES	Chapter 9: Key Signatures pages 1-12 Practice Questions 1 (p. 13) Practice Questions 2 (p. 14) Ear Training Scales (p. 16-18) Ear Training Rhythm (p. 19-21)

Be thorough in your preparation. This looks like an enormous task, but much of it will go quickly, and you probably already know some of it from the music classes/lessons you have had.

YOU MUST Bring your completed/printed worksheets to class with you on the first day.