

St. Athanasius Academy

Class Syllabus- Music Literacy

Teacher Information

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**A. Course Description**

This class with focus on developing foundational skills for developing music literacy. The course will include critical listening, music notation, basic music writing, and singing. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to read and write music notation, sight-read basic passages on solfege, and listen, analyze, and describe music.

**B. Course Outline**

Unit 1: Basic Notation

- Note Values
- Rests
- Time Signatures and Rhythm
- The Grand Staff
- Notes on the Staff
- Intervals
- Accidentals
- Signs and Terms

Unit 2: Scales and Chords

- Major and Minor Scale patterns
- Major and Minor Triads
- Primary Triads I, IV, and V
- Key Signatures
- Harmonizing and Accompanying with I, IV, V
- Chord Inversions

Unit 3: Solfege and Sight-Reading

- Solfege introduction and curwen hand signs
- Sight-reading steps and skips
- Sight-reading Rhythms
- Sight-reading basic Major and Minor patterns

#### Unit 4: Form and Analysis

- Question and Answer Phrases
- Repetition
- Binary Form
- Ternary Form
- Listening and looking for Form in Music

#### C. Assignments and Tests

- Students will be asked to complete assignments on a regular basis, these may be written or performance based, for example singing and/or clapping a short sight-reading example.
- Upon the completion of each unit students will take a written test, exams will be based on materials covered in class.
- Throughout the course the teacher will provide listening examples for the students. Students will periodically be asked to listen to these examples and write a short journal entry with observations about each selection to be shared in class.
- Song Writing Project: Students will be asked to compose a short piece in any style, to be written and submitted to the teacher prior to the end of the term. Guidelines for this project will be distributed following the completion of the first unit.

#### D. Grading/Evaluations

Faculty assess achievement of the student and assign grades according to a collegial GPA: 4 (A, excellent), 3 (B, above average), 2 (C, average), 1 (D, below average), 0 (F, requirements not met). Every effort will be given by the faculty to help students succeed, but laziness and lack of achievement cannot be ignored. Also, it is unfair to give two students the same grade who did not apply themselves equally. Therefore, grades will be at the discretion of the teacher.

#### Grading Breakdown

- Class Participation: 25%
- Tests: 25%
- Homework/Classwork: 25%
- Project: 25%

#### E. Attendance

We do not have an official attendance policy, but a lack of attendance could affect participation and final grading by the teacher. The virtual classrooms are available to any students with internet access. We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. We are unable to promise that 100% of all video calls will be recorded and posted online.

#### F. Classroom Expectations

1. Arrive to class on time
2. Be prepared
3. Respect your classmates and teacher
4. Give your all, all the time
5. Be responsible for your actions
6. No eating, drinking, cell phones, or extra electronics permitted during class time

#### **G. Class Requirements/ General Information**

It is expected that students will complete assignments in a timely manner and turn them in when due. If you miss an assignment or test it is YOUR responsibility to make it up. Following each class period I will send out a reminder to the class including details on homework assignments and upcoming tests or quizzes. If you miss an assignment and do not turn it in within one week of the due date you will receive no credit.

Please make arrangements with me if you are having trouble understanding the material or have special considerations. I want to help make this a successful class for you, but if you wait until the last day of class it will be too late.

#### **H. Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade.