

Burlington High School  
Music Department

Teacher: Mr. Sean Buchsbaum  
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Course Title: Music Theory I (2018-2019)  
Number: 630

### I. Course Overview

Students in this class will study rhythm, melody, harmony, and compose numerous short pieces based on the concepts learned.

### II. Successful Learning

There is no official textbook issued for this course. All concepts taught come from several different theory texts, which will be presented through daily notes and handouts. Those students who will be successful will ask questions, be organized and diligent in their note-taking, and explore their own creativity and thought process by engaging in the compositional process.

### **Materials for Class:**

- Some means of collecting any paper handouts, whether it is a binder, folder, or divider within a notebook. You must have this with you for every single class period.
- Manuscript/Staff Paper - please keep a copy of the 2-column notes/staff paper template in your binder.
- iPad or ChromeBook with access to Google Drive and Classroom accounts.
- Headphones with 1/8" Adaptor
- Pencil(s)
- Optional: Access to MuseScore or NoteFlight - free online music notation software for submitting assignments digitally.

### III. Student Learning Expectations

The student will recognize, appreciate, and analyze the rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic foundations of pieces composed in all styles of music. The student will be able to compose music in many different styles using the concepts taught in class.

### IV. Expected Outcomes

Students will learn to analyze music and to read it critically. They will use current technology such as Sibelius and Audacity to create original pieces of music, which will be produced as professional audio tracks that are individually produced by each student.

### V. Topics/Content

The topics to be covered in Music Theory I include (but are not limited to):

Pulse, Meter, Time Signatures, Notation, Ostinato, Major and Minor Scales, Triads, Voicing, Voice Leading, Phrasing, Cadences, Non-Harmonic Tones, Chorale Scoring, Piano Scoring, Classical Bass Lines, Pedal Point, Melody, Motifs, Intervals, Secondary Dominants, Harmonization of a Melody and Melodic Development.

## VI. Assessing Progress

Grades will be recorded based on progress in the following areas:

- Homework (Several/quarterly; heavier at beginning of course)
- Composition Projects (Several/quarterly)
- Written and Listening/Singing Tests (At the end of each semester)

### Written Music Theory (Non-Aural, 50%)

Throughout the year, students will learn symbols and standard procedures for decoding and creating written music. Primarily we will use the lecture and note-taking method to introduce and practice these concepts. Assessments will ask students to identify symbols and write music using the concepts and skills we cover. Assessments may take the form of homework, short quizzes, tests, or longer, more in-depth composition projects.

### Listening Music Theory Skills (Aural, 50%)

In addition to learning written theory, students will train their ears and body to recognize and respond to aural music. Students will also learn to sing/play music they do not hear first (sight-reading), and they will learn to write music they hear (dictating). Assessments may take the form of short, performance-based assignments in which students perform a musical example, as well as rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictations.

## VII. Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time - the door is closed when the bell rings.
2. Bring your materials and homework to class.
3. Respect the computer equipment, the art form, your classmates, yourself, and your teacher.
4. No food or drink in the lab!

## VIII. Homework/Makeup Policy

Homework will be assigned as concepts are introduced to students and mastery of material becomes essential for composition and creation. Students are asked to bring all homework by the assigned date or a late penalty will be deducted. On several assignments, students will have the opportunity to make adjustments based on the feedback that they receive in class. Please contact Mr. Buchsbaum directly for any immediate concerns about assignments or grading.

## VI. Additional Information

Almost all projects are done on the computer using Sibelius software. Homework (as well as major projects) can be done at home on your own computer and emailed directly to [sbuchsbaum@bpsk12.org](mailto:sbuchsbaum@bpsk12.org) or submitted via Google Classroom.