

# AP Music Theory - Course Overview

Content Area: **Performing Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **September**  
Length: **33 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## School Mission Statement

---

The mission of Chartertech is to provide artists the opportunity to blend principles of artistic expression with cutting-edge technology, so artists will excel in academic, career, and civic pursuits and contribute to the harmony and productivity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Artistic integration:** Performing arts will be accessible to all artists as a skill and content area and will serve as a vehicle for imparting, enlivening, and motivating excellence in all academic topics, as well as providing a platform for learning multicultural appreciation and empathy, not just tolerance.

**Technological integration:** Technology will serve as the foundation for instructional delivery systems leading to knowledge acquisition, concept understanding, and skill mastery in all academic subjects. Technology will not be studied as a separate entity but infused into the very fabric of educational pursuits, exactly as it occurs in the business world. Artists will be prepared to compete in the modern workplace or post-secondary institution.

*"Education has always been torn between vocational and utilitarian purposes on one hand and creative and holistic purposes on the other... We are rapidly entering a world that is hard to imagine. By developing the problem-solving skills, creativity, and discipline required in the arts, artists can prepare for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

From Understanding How the Arts Contribute to Excellent Education

National Endowment for the Arts, 1991

## School Goals

---

### Goals for Arts Education:

**Artists will learn the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to turn their passions and gifts in the arts into vocations or serious avocations.**

Objective 1: Each year, each artist will take two semesters (10 credits) of career-oriented training (80 minutes per day) in their artistic major.

Objective 2: Each marking period, each artist will perform or produce frequently, in diverse settings and for diverse audiences.

Objective 3: Artistic instruction will be integrated into the study of all academic subjects.

Objective 4: Each year, each artist will complete at least twenty after-school “lab” hours in their artistic major. These will constitute career-oriented service to the school and/or community, and demonstrate accomplishment of the NJCCCS crosscutting workplace readiness standards.

**Goal for Technology:**

**Chartertech will model the technology-intense workplace and artists will be able to compete successfully and perform well in a technology-intense workplace.**

Objective 5: Each artist will routinely use technology in a workplace-like manner to acquire, analyze, communicate, and present information in every subject.

Objective 6: Each artist will have access to a computer every day, every class so that automated sources will be the main conduit for educational content.

Objective 7: All administrative and instructional functions of the school will be supported by the most modern technology available.

**Goals for Academic Achievement:**

**Artists will apply themselves in the serious pursuit of knowledge and skills, especially skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication.**

Objective 8: Each year, and to be promoted to the next grade each artist will pass five credits in English, Health, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and PE/Health. Between grades 9-12 artists will also complete 1 year of Spanish.

Objective 9: In each academic subject, each year, each artist will complete a significant project that involves critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication skills, and which demonstrates cross-content workplace readiness skills.

Objective 10: Each year artists will develop a artist resume to guide his/her academic and artistic studies and to document his/her academic and artistic accomplishments. This work will be done under the mentorship of the faculty in the artist’s artistic major.

Objective 11: Academic instruction in all subjects will be highly cross-curricular, in accordance with curricula design and continuously improved by teachers, in compliance with the New Jersey Artist Learning Standards.

## **Course Description**

---

<b>Course Title:</b>	AP Music Theory
<b>Department:</b>	Performing Arts
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	Completed at least one year of Advanced Vocal, Advanced Instrumental, or upon teacher/admin recommendation
<b>Number of Credits:</b>	5
<b>Grade Level(s):</b>	9-12

<b>Standards:</b>	<p>1.1 (Aesthetics) All Artists will use aesthetic knowledge in the creation of and in response to dance, music, theater, and visual art.</p> <p>1.2 (Creation and Performance) All Artists will utilize those skills, media, methods, and technologies appropriate to each art form in the creation, performance, and presentation of dance, music, theater, and visual art.</p> <p>1.3 (Elements and Principles) All Artists will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of dance, music, theater, and visual art. (History/Culture) All Artists will understand and analyze the role, development, and continuing influence of the arts in relation to world cultures, history, and society.</p> <p>1.4 (Elements and Principles) All Artists will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of dance, music, theater, and visual art.</p> <p>1.5 (History/Culture) All Artists will understand and analyze the role, development, and continuing influence of the arts in relation to world cultures, history, and society</p>
<b>Description of Course</b>	<p>The AP Music Theory course corresponds to one-to-two semesters of typical, introductory college music theory coursework that covers topics such as musicianship, theory, and musical materials and procedures. Musicianship skills, including dictation and listening skills, sight-singing, and harmony, are an important part of the course. through the course, Artists develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of tonal music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural (listening) skills is a primary objective. Performance is also part of the curriculum through the practice of sight-singing. Artists learn basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed, and fluency with basic materials are emphasized.</p>

## Overview & Pacing

Unit #	Major Content	Expected Time
Unit 1: Music Fundamentals: Pitch, Major Scales and Key Signatures, Rhythm, Meter, and Expressive Elements	Develop an understanding of the foundational elements of Music: Pitch, Major Scales and Key Signatures, Rhythm, Meter, and Expressive Elements.	2 Weeks
Unit 2: Music Fundamentals II: Minor Scales and Key Signatures, Melody, Timbre, and Texture	Deepen understanding of the foundational elements of Music: Minor Scales and Key Signatures, Melody, Timbre, and Texture.	3 Weeks
Unit 3: Music Fundamentals III: Triads and Seventh Chords	Introduction to the procedures of 18th-century style voice leading: Triads and Seventh Chords.	3 Weeks
Unit 4: Harmony and Voice Leading I: Chord Function, Cadence, and Phrase	Study voice-leading conventions and procedures in four-voice (SATB) harmonic progressions:	5 Weeks

	Chord Function, Cadence, and Phrase.	
Unit 5: Harmony and Voice Leading II: Chord Progressions and Predominant Function	Study voice-leading conventions and procedures in four-voice (SATB) harmonic progressions: Chord Progressions and Predominant Function.	5 Weeks
Unit 6: Harmony and Voice Leading III: Embellishments, Motives, and Melodic Devices	Discover the expressive possibilities offered by embellishing tones; learn about motives and melodic devices: Embellishments, Motives, and Melodic Devices.	4 Weeks
Unit 7: Harmony and Voice Leading IV: Secondary Function	Apply understanding of keys, scale degrees, and chords to identify and produce tonicization.	5 Weeks
Unit 8: Modes and Form	Apply understanding of musical components, relationships, tonality, and conventions to confidently predict patterns and effects of combinations within a performance or written score, while comparing the modes to major and minor scales.	4 Weeks
Unit 9: Exam Overview Review	Solidify familiarity with the information, techniques, and sections of the AP Music Theory exam.	2 Weeks