



MUSIC LITERACY (6th/7th/8th grades)

Fridays 12:00 noon Eastern Time Zone

Teacher Information:

Presbytera Suzanne Lichtenstein
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Course Description:

This class will focus on developing foundational skills for music literacy using Western, modern staff notation. The course will include critical listening, music notation, basic music writing, and singing. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to do the following:

- Read and write music notation and rhythmic patterns.
- Exhibit beginning-level skill in decoding melodies and chord progressions.
- Sight-read basic, melodic passages on scale degrees, solfege syllables (Do-Re-Mi's), and text.
- Be able to listen to, analyze, and describe the structural format of music.

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Music Basics and Singing Foundation

- Brief introduction to systems of writing music throughout history
- Brief introduction to modern notation in the Western and Byzantine styles: similarities and differences

Note: We will be focusing on modern Western staff notation for the remainder of the course.

- Names of notes: scale degrees, solfege hand signs, and letter names
- Decoding songs: using our ears to identify the notes in a song
- Time values for notes and rests
- Time signatures and rhythm
- The Grand Staff
- Notes on the Grand Staff
- Intervals
- Accidentals
- Signs and terms

Unit 2: Scales, Chords, and Harmony

- Major and minor scale patterns; other mode patterns
- Major and minor triads (three-note chords)
- Primary triads I, IV, and V
- Key signatures
- Harmonizing and accompanying with I, IV, V
- Chord inversions

Unit 3: Sight-Reading

- Sight-reading steps and skips
- Sight-reading rhythms
- Sight-reading on solfege syllables, scale degrees, and text
- Sight-reading basic Major and minor patterns

Unit 4: Form and Analysis

- “Question & Answer” phrases
- Repetition
- Binary form
- Ternary form
- Listening and looking for form in music

Technology requirements:

- Ability to print PDF's.
- Access to a scanner. Students will need to turn in homework in the form of scans of handwritten pages. Many printers have a scanner function.
- Access to a video recorder (phone camera). Students will need to turn in homework in the form of short videos of practice assignments.
- Access to a digital camera (phone camera). Students may need to turn in homework in the form of photos for some assignments.
- Ability to mute and unmute microphone easily. A working microphone is essential.
- Video “on” during all class sessions. A working webcam is essential.
- Free account with [Noteflight.com](https://www.noteflight.com).
- Free app on smartphone, [Audiostretch Lite](https://www.audiostretch.com).

Material requirements:

- 4 large plastic cups, and 8 small plastic cups. (These can be the disposable kind, as long as they are sturdy.)
- 1 pair chopsticks
- 1 pair dice
(list continues on next page)
- 1" binder with clear plastic window pocket and interior pockets
- 8 divider tabs for the binder, labelled as follows:
 1. History
 2. Pitch
 3. Rhythm
 4. Staff Notation & Symbols
 5. Scales & Modes
 6. Chords & Harmony
 7. Sight-reading
 8. Form & Analysis
- Filler paper for the binder: either college rule or wide rule, according to student preference
- A landscape wide pad, college-ruled, 11" wide x 9.5 tall. These look like ordinary notepads, except the lines run sideways, in landscape format instead of portrait. Available online from many stores, but prices vary widely. Available in [white](#), [canary yellow](#), and [3-packs of blue/purple/pink](#). Only one pad needed per student. The white color is the most economical. Some students think better with colored paper, however, and that is worth considering. (Alternatively, a college-ruled [composition notebook](#), the sewn kind with a tape binding, can be disassembled and the pages used as long sheets of paper.)
- Plain copy paper (same kind as for a printer)
- Colored pencils or colored highlighter pens
- Pencil for writing music
- Pencil or pen for taking notes
- Household objects

Environment Requirements:

- A quiet and non-distracting room, with televisions and other music turned off.
- Webcam at eye level, so the student is not looking down.
- A box, bag, work drawer, or student desk interior for holding all the class materials and supplies in one place. Having everything ready and close at hand is important in this course.
- Parents are encouraged to be nearby and facilitate during the classes. Also, parents will be in charge of ensuring that students can make videos, photos, or scans of their homework assignments and send them to the teacher. Parents should also be prepared to be enthusiastic and supportive audiences when requested by students; positive encouragement is important.

Grading/Evaluations:

Faculty of St. Athanasius Academy assess achievement of the student and assign grades according to a collegial GPA: 4 (A = excellent), 3 (B = very good), 2 (C = adequate), 1 (D = poor), 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%

Attendance:

St. Athanasius Academy does 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.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Arrive to class on time and have your video "on."
2. Be prepared. Have all your materials with you.
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.

Assignments and Tests :

Students will be asked to complete assignments on a regular basis. The nature of the assignments will vary: they may involve writing or completing worksheets, drawing,

computer-based composition or theory activities, listening to assigned recordings. Homework will frequently involve making video of a performance-based activity, such as a song or rhythm activity the student has been practicing, or of the student singing and 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 be asked to listen to these examples and write short journal entries, with observations about the selections, 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.

Homework Assignment Timeliness

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 with details on homework assignments and upcoming tests or quizzes. **If the assignment is late without an accepted excuse, then the assignment may not receive full credit.**

If you miss an assignment for any reason and do not turn it in within one week of the due date, you will receive no credit. Note: If your student is experiencing an extended illness, please discuss the matter so that we can look into options about how to handle grades.

Please make arrangements with me, the teacher, 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 a grade is assigned on homework, it will be too late.

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.