

## AP Music Theory summer agenda

- You should be able to purchase the book through the school's textbook vendors and information should be available on the schools website this summer.
  - Turek, Ralph. *The Elements of Music: Concepts and Applications*, 2nd ed. Vol. 1. New York: McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 0070654743
- Once you have the book, the following should be completed:
  - Read chapter 1 and 2
  - Complete the Comprehension Tests on page 19 and page 51 (Answers to these questions are on page 510 and 511 respectively)
- Listen to some classical music if you don't already do, then bring in a selection of what you have been listening to the first day of class to share.
- Memorize the notes in the following clefs and be able to ID quickly:

- tenor clef
- bass clef

- alto clef
- tenor clef

The image displays four musical staves, each containing a sequence of notes for identification. The first staff uses a treble clef and contains the notes D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The second staff uses a bass clef and contains the notes F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B. The third staff uses an alto clef (C-clef on the third line) and contains the notes E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A. The fourth staff uses a tenor clef (C-clef on the fourth line) and contains the notes C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F.

### What is Music Theory?

Before one studies music theory it helps to have a little perspective. Music theory is very similar to other sciences in how it describes, categorizes, and defines occurrences in the natural world. These occurrences, namely musical composition and musical performance, can be recognized to have many layers of structure and order. Music theory is an awesome tool for understanding and manipulating sound structures within these layers. Music can be described as a reflection of human emotion and mind. Music theory helps us make logical sense of these reflections. Musicians and composers usually follow rules of music theory, either consciously or unconsciously, but music has always evolved by artists who break the rules. These forward thinkers were all versed in the current musical styles and theory, but they moved beyond those things. Eventually, music theorists formulated new descriptions and the science continues to evolve today. It is my hope that through the study of music theory you will be able to appreciate the beauty and complexity of not only the music, but the minds of the people who make that music.