

Students,

Welcome to AP Music Theory!

To ensure we get off to a great start, complete the exercises below prior to our first day of class. The first section contains videos and slides that will present the material; the second section are exercises that you will need to practice to prepare for class.

There will be an assessment of these things on the first day of school in August, so make sure you are well prepared. If you need help with any of this please email me.

Topics with instructional slides and videos:

1. Reading a piano keyboard:

Video: [Reading a piano keyboard](#)

Diagram: [Piano keyboard diagram](#)

2. Reading notes in treble clef and in bass clef

Instructional slides: [Treble/Bass clef and Grand staff](#)

Videos: [Reading treble clef](#)

[Reading Bass clef](#)

Mnemonic device I use for treble clef: Every Good Boy Does Fine

Mnemonic device I use for bass clef: Great Big Dogs Fight Animals

3. Half steps and whole steps on piano keyboard:

Instructional slides: [Half steps and Whole steps](#)

Video: [Half steps and Whole steps](#)

4. Order of sharps and flats in the key signature

Instructional slides: [Order of sharps and flats](#)

Mnemonic device for sharps: Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Bread

Mnemonic device for flats: BEAD Go "C" Fred

## 5. Reading key signatures

Video: [Reading key signatures](#)

(note: we will use the "TWO RULES" method)

This video might also be helpful: [Reading key signatures #2](#)

### Exercises:

It is important that you are fluent in every area before class begins. Complete at least 20 of each. Keep in mind that music theory is a skill, and skills need continual practice, so keep working through these exercises throughout the summer (particularly the key signatures).

1. [Reading a piano keyboard](#)
2. [Treble clef](#)
3. [Bass clef](#)
4. [Grand staff](#)
5. [Half steps \(m2\) and Whole steps \(M2\)](#)
6. [Reading key signatures](#)

If you find yourself struggling in any of these areas please reach out to me so I can help.

Looking forward to theory-ing with you in a few months!

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