

Students,

Updated 2026

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.

Section 1: 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 the lines in treble clef: **Every Good Boy Does Fine**

Mnemonic device I use for the lines in 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](#)

Section II: Exercises:

Complete at least 20 of each. The goal is fluency (90%) in these topics by August. If you aren't reaching at least 90% accuracy, go back and watch the videos before proceeding.

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](#)

Section III: Homework:

Complete the following worksheet pages. They will be collected the first day of school, followed by a quiz sometime the first week.

[Summer assignment pages](#)

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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