



Parents,

My name is Mr. Williams. It is my distinct pleasure to teach your child AP Music Theory at Destrehan High School. As their instructor, it is my responsibility to challenge my students' prior knowledge of music literacy and ear training and advance them to a level similar to collegiate and professional musicians. This class is intended for students who will continue into music after high school, however all are welcome! We will review what they have learned from their previous band and choir experiences, but will quickly jump into more advanced topics. All students enrolled in my class are required to take the AP Music Theory exam at the end of the school year.

Being an active professional musician, I wish to keep learning music as fun and as engaging as possible. However, this class does present a heavy workload inside and out of the classroom. Every day, students should be prepared for lectures and applying the information from these lectures to practice problems on that subject. Additionally, students will experience daily ear training exercises which include singing and listening to music samples, and respond to questions based on these samples or rewrite the music played based on their knowledge of pitch and rhythm. Outside of class, students will have homework assignments from their workbook and internet resources based on lectures and ear training. I communicate heavily through Google Classroom with assignments, announcements, and occasional interesting internet sources to keep students engaged.

Please encourage your student to practice and to do the assigned homework. **Your student's success or failure relies heavily on how often they practice outside of class, not necessarily how much they practice.** Twenty minutes of practice each day will show a much higher growth in skills than only practicing twice a week for 2 hours each session.

Students will have textbooks and other resources that I will hand out to them. I suggest they keep a 1" binder to hold all handouts, lecture notes, assignments, and exercises. Sheet protectors are encouraged, but not required. I will only accept work completed in pencil. Mistakes will be made often, and they must be cleanly erased, not scratched or crossed out. (The big pink erasers will work.) As an incentive, I accept homework early and check it for correctness; if there are errors, I will return the work to the student and allow many chances for half credit to be received up until the due date. Only answers cleanly erased and replaced will be accepted.

I hold my students to high expectations just as I do for myself. I ask that you support me in achieving these standards by being an integral part in your child's practice and homework time and encouraging him/her to practice. I will make myself available to aid students before and after school or after rehearsals, and will do my best to provide each student with individualized feedback. Likewise, I am very active on Google Classroom and will respond to questions when I am not at school. Please do not hesitate to email me at [cwilliams1@stcharles.k12.la.us](mailto:cwilliams1@stcharles.k12.la.us) if you have any questions or concerns during the semester. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Sincerely,

Chris Williams  
Director of Bands  
Destrehan High School

#### CLASSROOM CIVILITY

We take a Restorative Approach to discipline at Destrehan High School. Our primary focus, in conjunction with teaching and learning, is to build positive and working relationships. My discipline management plan will be consistent with the following restorative action steps:

1. **Remind** – Student will be reminded of rule(s) or directions.
2. **Redirect** – Student will be specifically redirected to the task at hand.
3. **Relocate** – Student will be relocated to either reflect upon (mis-) behavior, calm down, or removed from a potentially disruptive situation. (*If necessary*)
4. **Reflect** – Student will be guided to reflect upon what happened, what could have prevented the situation, and how to make amends to the appropriate parties. (*If necessary*)

*\*Further or more severe consequences may be assigned if disruptive behavior continues or for more serious incidents/offenses*