

Guitar I Syllabus

Ms. Emily Wilkins (Mrs. Fredericks)

Course Description:

Guitar I is a one-semester course for beginner guitarists, dedicated to providing a musically enriching experience for students who wish to keep music in their lives. Students will learn to play guitar by ear and from music notation, while studying various musical styles and introductory music theory.

Course Objectives:

- Develop appropriate sitting posture and hand positions.
- Learn to play chords, accompaniment, and melodies.
- Learn proper strumming, fingerstyle, and flat-picking techniques.
- Learn to read standard music notation, chord diagrams, chord symbols, and tablature.
- Learn to tune and care for the guitar.
- Learn to play various musical genres, including flamenco, blues, rock, pop, and classical.

Class structure:

- Most class periods will be divided into two portions:
 1. **Group instruction** – learning and playing together as a class
 2. **Individual/small group instruction**, practice time, and assessment

Expectations:

- **Care for your instrument:** You are expected to treat your assigned guitar with the greatest respect. (See contract)
 - You and I will inspect and document any preexisting damage on your assigned guitar. I will check the guitars throughout the semester for new damage. If you discover damage, it is your responsibility to report it *immediately*.
 - Your assigned guitar is for classroom use only and may not be taken home.
 - You may use only your assigned guitar, case, and locker; to store the guitar, zip it into its assigned case and place into locker, neck first.
 - Detuning a guitar is prohibited; it causes excessive wear on the strings, affecting lifespan. This includes D-tuning, G-tuning, randomly turning pegs as a joke, etc.
 - If you must leave the room during class, please put your guitar in its case, and lay it flat on the floor out of the walking path. Do not prop your guitar against a chair or stand. In case of emergency (i.e., fire drill) please simply place your guitar flat on the floor.
 - **Respect:** I promise to always treat you with respect, and I expect the same in return. I expect you to treat your peers, instrument, and classroom with respect.
- **Starting Class:** Please be in your seat by the bell for morning announcements in G205. After announcements, I will dismiss you to retrieve materials and meet in G218. Please have your guitar, music stand, and method books/handouts ready.
- **Ending Class:** Please wait for me to dismiss you, about one minute before the final bell; you are expected to put your guitar and materials away correctly.
- **During group instruction:**

- Please remain actively engaged in the lesson
- Please raise your hand to ask a question or make a comment
- Please play only when and what you are asked to play; stop playing when asked to stop.
- Please do not talk while I am talking or while a peer is talking
- **During individual/small group time:**
 - Please stay on task: practicing what we learned today, practicing techniques you are struggling with, practicing for assessments, etc
 - Please use this time to ask for help and receive feedback
- **Phones/iPods/tablets:** Only with permission, when needed for a specific purpose (i.e., using an app for tuning or chord diagrams)
- **Food/Drink:** None, in order to keep the guitars in good condition.
- **Assessments:** You will be given deadlines to complete individual performance assessments, which may be completed during individual instruction time. It is your responsibility to manage your time and complete assessments before given deadlines.

Grading:

- **70%: Summative Assessment**
 - Individual performance
 - Group performance
 - Written
 - Presentations
- **30% Other: Formative Assessment & Active Participation**
 - Individual performance
 - Group performance
 - Written

Contact Information:

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Guitar I Contract

Student Name: _____

Assigned Guitar: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We have read the syllabus and understand the expectations for care of the guitar. We understand that it is the student's responsibility to maintain the guitar's current condition by following proper procedures. We understand that should the assigned guitar become damaged because the student did not follow proper procedures, the student is financially responsible for its repair or replacement.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____