

Course Outline: Guitar Class/Fundamentals

Guitar Classes (Guitar 1, 2, 3 and Arts Fundamentals) are comprehensive group lessons taking students through all facets of performing on the instrument. This is an academic course, not a club, so a consistent practice routine must be observed. Prerequisites: Guitar 1: must have an instrument. Guitar 2: successful completion of Guitar 1 with a grade of A- or higher (or by permission). Guitar 3: successful completion of Guitar 2 with a grade of A- or higher (or by permission). For Arts Fundamentals, there are no prerequisites, and an instrument is loaned to the student to be used during class.

Course Goals and Objectives

Guitar 1 and Fundamentals: the main goal of this course is to have students with no prior knowledge of guitar/music gain enough skills to begin playing independently. Topics include notation, tablature, chords/notes in first position, ensemble skills.

Guitar 2: topics build on the previous course and include power chords, improvisation, style.

Guitar 3: topics build on the previous course and include barre chords, fingerstyle playing, basic music theory. Students may also audition for Guitar & Mandolin Orchestra.

Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions. Points are awarded based on student *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 – 92	B+ = 87 - 89	B = 83 - 86	B- = 80 - 82	C+ = 77 - 79	C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72	D+ = 63 - 69	D = 60 - 62	F = 0 - 59			

Preparation and Participation (approx. 80%): Students who are present and prepared earn 4 points each class session as follows: 2 points for bringing instrument/book and 2 points for active engagement in class activities. If the course meets as a full semester, students earn 3 points per class session. If the instrument is “in the shop” students must make arrangements to use a school loaner at least one day in advance or they will not receive credit for the session. Students who are not in class receive a zero. However, an *excused* absence can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to practice/review any missed material. Unprepared grades cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

NOTE: students who pass the “Tuning Challenge” may use a classroom guitar and only need to bring their book to class.

Assessment (approx. 20%): Students earn 4 points for performing any assignments as follows: 4 points for performing the assignment correctly from memory, 3 points for performing the assignment correctly by reading. NOTE: one point is deducted for each mistake/pause. Quizzes are worth 4 points. Students who are not in class receive a zero for the assignment. However, this can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to perform/submit the assignment.

Attendance: Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their “good standing” status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until credit recovery is completed in the summer.

Team Work: Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*. All students must bring home their instrument after each class, as this contributes to good practice habits and opens needed space in the storage area.