

**WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL  
BEGINNING GUITAR SYLLABUS  
2020-2021  
Class code: bz9oj0**

**Mr. Williams**  
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**I. Course Description:** This course is designed for students to experience the guitar through the study of basic chords, beginning melodies and music theory. Additionally, the studently will be engaged in activities that foster creative and critical thought of how popular music reflects society, with a focus upon several recurring themes:

- The interaction of European American, African American, and Latin American musical traditions
- The influence of mass media and technology (printing, recording, radio, video, Internet)
- The role of rock and popular music as a symbol of identity (race, class, gender, generation)

**II. Grading:**

1. **Daily Participation and Academic Responsibility:** Students will earn 10 points per week for their active and constructive participation in the rehearsal time. In order to receive all 10 points the student must:
  - Be on time with their music folder, instrument, and pencil.
  - Students must be seated and ready to play three minutes after the bell.
  - Be attentive and cooperative during the rehearsal process. This means always being engaged in and participating in ALL aspects of the rehearsal process.
  - Never use cell phones or other distracting electronic devices.

2. **Assignments:** Students will be given various assignments pertaining to the music lesson at hand. A typical lesson includes music theory, listening assignments, homework, preparing assigned music parts, etc.

3. **Exams and Quizzes:** Students will be tested on music theory concepts, sight reading skills, music history, and assigned music.

4. **Performances:** At the end of the Spring semester the class **may** be enrolled in a music competition **pending the skill level and commitment of the entire class**. The following criteria will be applied to competitive performances if they occur:

You will be required to perform in a guitar ensemble during the second semester of guitar class. All performances are mandatory and graded unless noted otherwise. Students must be at the performance site in uniform with the required equipment and music at the stated call time in order to receive full credit. Unexcused absences from a performance will result in a failing grade for that performance. The music teacher must be notified **2 weeks in advance, by a parent, in writing** if there is a situation that prevents you from being at a scheduled performance; however, whether or not the situation is excusable is left up to the discretion of the high school music teacher. Typically, death and severe illness are the **ONLY** excused absences. Documentation of a funeral and/or a doctor's note will be required to excuse the student from performances. Other potential absences must be brought to the attention of the high school music teacher within the first two weeks of the school year. If you are excused, you will be given an alternate assignment. **Please note**, a student's job commitments are not excused. Part of being a music student and an adult is learning time management and personal responsibility. Many students are able to work and participate in band.

**Concert Dress:** You are responsible for having the following items as part of your concert dress for performances.

- Black dress pants/skirt – skirts must be at or below the knee and pants must be full length
  - i. Please note that the school will provide any student with black tux pants for your concert attire if requested
- Black shirt/blouse – no low cut tops or spaghetti straps
- Black dress shoes & socks/nylons - no flips flops or stiletto heels

5. **Binder:** Students will keep a three-ringed binder. The binder must be 1-inch or larger. All classroom assignments, daily notes, and graded work must be present in this binder. You will have open-binder quizzes throughout the semester. Make sure you keep your binder neat and organized. This is an easy grade and a great way to ensure that you will succeed at mastering guitar in the future. ☺ If you are in need of a binder, please see Mr. Williams for a gently used one.

6. **Practicing:** It should be noted that success in this class is dependent on practicing your instrument and studying music theory concepts necessary to succeed. Students may borrow the school's guitars. They must be returned for each class. Although it is not required, owning your own guitar for use at home is recommended. Winters Joint Unified School District will provide guitars for daily use on school grounds.

**III. Benchmarks:** You must pass **ALL** benchmarks for this class.

1. **Playing Exams and Performances:** Students perform assigned music and/or skills on their guitar
2. **Theory Exams:** Students will be tested on their theoretical knowledge of music. This includes, but is not limited to, note recognition, chord fingerings, musical terms, and music history
3. **Music History Projects**
4. **Music Theory Projects**

**IV. Class Rules:**

1. Practice... Practice... Practice... and when you think you have figured it out, practice some more! You need to practice your instrument to better yourself as a musician and as an ensemble.
2. Be early or on time.
3. No food or drink in the music room.
4. Do not use cell phones in class unless prompted.
5. Be attentive.
6. Take care of all equipment.
7. WHS rules as found in the handbook always apply and are enforced.  
(Tardy policy, dress code, bathroom, etc.)

**Please return by Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – 10 points (Your first easy homework assignment)**

I have read and understand the beginning guitar syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Parent/Guardian Name

Parent's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_