

**WINTERS HIGH SCHOOL
BEGINNING GUITAR SYLLABUS
2022-2023**

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I. Course Description: This course is designed for students to experience music through the guitar by studying basic chords, beginning melodies and music theory. Additionally, the students 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:

BREAKDOWN:

1. - **Class Participation/In Class Assessments (70 percent)**
2. - **Practice Logs/Reflections on Music (10 percent)**
3. - **Various Assignments (10 Percent)**
4. **Semester Final (10 Percent)**

1. **Daily Participation and Academic Responsibility:** Students will earn 10-30 points per week for their active and constructive participation in the rehearsal time. In order to receive all points the student must:

- Be on time with a music folder, instrument, and pencil/pen.
- Students must be seated and ready to play three minutes after the bell.
- Be attentive and cooperative during all phases of the instructional/rehearsal process.
- NEVER use cell phones or other distracting electronic devices unless approved to use a guitar tuner app or similar

1. Note: These must be approved by instructor EVERY time they are utilized

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

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

2. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** All late assignments must be discussed with Mr. Williams. As a general rule late assignments will be downgraded 10% per day late.

1. **Performances:** At the end of the Spring semester the class **MAY** take part in a music performance.

1. **Folder:** All classroom assignments, daily notes, and graded work must be contained within the supplied folder. This folder **MUST** be brought to every class. Failure to bring your folder/lost folder will result in a deduction of points that will adversely impact your grade.

1. **Practicing:** It should be noted that success in this class is dependent on practicing your instrument and studying music theory concepts necessary to succeed. There is a limited number of guitars that students may sign out. 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.

Note: **There will be sufficient time** given throughout the class period to practice various techniques and skills. This time is to be utilized for **PRACTICE ONLY!**

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 Appreciation Exams:** Students will be tested on various musical historical and cultural factors that impact modern society.

IV. Class Rules:

1. The purpose of this class is to become better guitar players and educated musicians. Any activity that does not contribute to that should simply not happen!
2. Be early or on time
3. Do not use cell phones in class unless prompted.
4. Take care of all equipment and only play your guitar, not other instruments in the room
5. **WHS rules as found in the handbook always apply and are enforced.**
(Tardy policy, dress code, bathroom, etc.)

UNIT PLAN BEGINNING GUITAR

UNIT ONE "INTRODUCTION TO FORMAL GUITAR INSTRUCTION"

OVERVIEW

Standards:

- CALIFORNIA VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STANDARDS (MUSIC), 2019
- NATIONAL MUSIC STANDARDS, (NAFME), 2014
PRIMARY EMPHASIS:
 - 1. CREATING**
 - 2. PERFORMING**
 - 3. RESPONDING**

Big Idea or Concept:

- Learning a musical instrument is a lifelong quest. Don't be frustrated and be patient
- How does the guitar fit into the overall landscape of music?
- How should we approach playing a piece of music on the guitar? Both mentally and physically?

Essential Questions:

- How do you stay motivated if you don't immediately learn a concept?
- What are ways that you can train yourself to pay specific attention to the guitar in a larger piece of music?
- How do I become a musician rather than just somebody that is able to play a couple of chords on a guitar?

Students will understand/know...

- The beginnings of the process of the lifelong pursuit of music.
- That the guitar often functions as part of a larger musical landscape.
- When the guitar functions as a solo instrument it is the responsibility of the player to play in a "musical" fashion

Students will be able to ...

- Hold the guitar correctly and have a firm grasp of the basics of the instrument
- Identify the basic function of the instrument in the group and whether or not it is functioning as a "lead" or "rhythm" guitar
- Understand the importance of playing with a steady beat

Stage 2- Assessment Evidence

Monitoring and Feedback:

- Student learning will be assessed during the "lecture" portion of the class
- Students will also be perform utilizing the FlipGrid Platform
- Instructor will provide feedback upon student performance.

Other Evidence:

- Students will be given quizzes to monitor progress
- Students will provide weekly "Practice/Listening Logs" to provide them an avenue to respond to their performances and week's musical experiences.

Stage 3- Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

All classes will have the following basic format:

1. Introduction, attendance, students given time to take out their instruments
2. Tuning of the guitars
 - a. All students are able to utilize an online tuner
 - b. Instructor always tunes guitar in "share screen" mode to demonstrate importance
3. **(CREATE)** Students are led through various performance activities:
 - a. Note: These will vary dependent upon student progress
4. **(RESPOND)** Various types of music that involve guitars will be played and the students will be led through a discussion of musical style, history, performance practices etc..
5. **(PERFORM)** Students will be given time to record themselves utilizing concepts taught

Skills Taught:

1. Quarter and Eighth Notes
2. Identify the different parts of the guitar
3. Taught basic hand positions of the guitar
4. Taught names of strings on the guitar

Musical Styles covered:

1. Folk/Bluegrass Music
2. Rock and Roll

Discussions

1. How does music inform the world around us?
2. What are some of the challenges that you think you will encounter throughout this course and pursuing an instrument?

UNIT TWO
 "INTRODUCTION TO GUITAR CHORDS/STRUMMING"

OVERVIEW

Standards:

- CALIFORNIA VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STANDARDS (MUSIC), 2019
- NATIONAL MUSIC STANDARDS, (NAFME), 2014

PRIMARY EMPHASIS:

- 4. CREATING**
- 5. PERFORMING**
- 6. RESPONDING**

Big Idea or Concept:

- Learn how to play basic guitar chords
- Learn how to move smoothly from one chord to another
- Learn basic strumming patterns on the guitar

Essential Questions:

- How does the "feel" of the piece of music change if you strum differently?
- Why is it important to be able to move from one chord to another?
- If you don't play the chords cleanly does it change the overall impact of the music?

Students will understand/know...

- The importance of playing chords properly
- How to play chords at different tempos
- The proper approach to playing chords

Students will be able to ...

- Play Em, Am, C, D, G, E, A, Dm chords
- Strum utilizing upstrokes and down strokes
- Utilizing proper fingering on chords

Stage 2- Assessment Evidence

Monitoring and Feedback:

- Student learning will be assessed during the "lecture" portion of the class
- Students will also be perform utilizing the FlipGrid Platform
- Instructor will provide feedback upon student performance.

Other Evidence:

- Students will be given quizzes to monitor progress
- Students will provide weekly "Practice/Listening Logs" to provide them an avenue to respond to their performances and week's musical experiences.

Stage 3- Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

All classes will have the following basic format:

6. Introduction, attendance, students given time to take out their instruments
7. Tuning of the guitars
 - a. All students are able to utilize an online tuner
 - b. Instructor always tunes guitar in "share screen" mode to demonstrate importance
8. **(CREATE)** Students are led through various performance activities:
 - a. Note: These will vary dependent upon student progress
 - i. Instructor will demonstrate concepts through discussion and lecture
9. **(RESPOND)** Various types of music that involve guitars will be played and the students will be led through a discussion of musical style, history, performance practices etc..
 - a. The students will perform basic variations of the music that is demonstrated
10. **(PERFORM)** Students will be given time to record themselves utilizing concepts taught
 - a. Students will be provided with feedback from instructor on their performances and given specific skills to apply to their performances.

Skills Taught:

1. How to play Em, Am, C, D, G, E, A, Dm chords
2. Proper hand position (particularly the left hand)
3. The differences between up and down strokes

Musical Styles covered:

1. Jazz Music
2. Classical Music
3. Blues Music

Discussions:

1. How can you change the basic feel of the song through changing the strumming pattern?
 - a. Why would you want to do this?

UNIT THREE

"INCORPORATING GUITAR SKILLS INTO POPULAR SONGS"

OVERVIEW

Standards:

- CALIFORNIA VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STANDARDS (MUSIC), 2019
 - NATIONAL MUSIC STANDARDS, (NAFME), 2014
- PRIMARY EMPHASIS:
- 7. CREATING**
 - 8. PERFORMING**
 - 9. RESPONDING**

Big Idea or Concept:

- Incorporating the chords learned into “actual” songs
- Incorporating the various strumming techniques into songs in order to achieve musical responses
- Be able to identify songs with a traditional “blues chord progression”

Essential Questions:

- How should we approach playing a piece of music on the guitar, both mentally and physically?
- How can we change the feel of a song based upon the way that we strum the guitar?
- How has the blues tradition been carried over to current songs?

Students will understand/know...

- How chords can be connected together to play a harmonic progression of a song
- How to play with a steady beat that reinforces the feeling of a song
- Some basic history of the Blues

Students will be able to ...

- Play basic chords to songs such as “You Are My Sunshine”
- Be able to play along with a basic strumming pattern when somebody else sings or plays a melody of a “simple” song.
- Be able to identify and play a blues chord progression

Stage 2- Assessment Evidence

Monitoring and Feedback:

- Student learning will be assessed during the “lecture” portion of the class
- Students will also be perform utilizing the FlipGrid Platform
- Instructor will provide feedback upon student performance.

Other Evidence:

- Students will be given quizzes to monitor progress
- Students will provide weekly “Practice/Listening Logs” to provide them an avenue to respond to their performances and week’s musical experiences.

Stage 3- Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

All classes will have the following basic format:

11. Introduction, attendance, students given time to take out their instruments
12. Tuning of the guitars
 - a. All students are able to utilize an online tuner
 - b. Instructor always tunes guitar in "share screen" mode to demonstrate importance
13. **(CREATE)** Students are led through various performance activities:
 - a. Note: These will vary dependent upon student progress
14. **(RESPOND)** Various types of music that involve guitars will be played and the students will be led through a discussion of musical style, history, performance practices etc..
15. **(PERFORM)** Students will be given time to record themselves utilizing concepts taught

Skills taught:

1. Playing with a solid and steady beat
2. Identification of the "Blues" chord progression
3. Able to move smoothly from one chord to another

Music Styles Covered:

1. Blues
2. Mexican Music

Discussion Questions:

1. How has technology changed the way that songs are played? Do you think that is a good thing?

RESOURCES

GOOGLE SLIDESHOW

1. This slideshow incorporates most of the visuals that are incorporated throughout the semester
 - a. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Wa514wo0eHNnenH3rAU3TG0lxDTJHZvwpuaLV1PwXLU/edit#slide=id.g926970a898_0_145

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

1. The assignments, practice logs etc. are all incorporated in “Classwork”
2. Various resources are embedded in the “Stream”
 - a. Google Classroom Code: [g5rniov](#)