

Course: **BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE GUITAR**
Teacher: Mr. Steptoe
Semester: Fall/Spring 2016-17
Period: 3rd
Room: Band Room 142/Orchestra Room 143

OBJECTIVE

Beginning Guitar is year-long course designed to give a basic introduction to the guitar. *It is solely intended for beginners with little or no prior guitar or music background.* Basic guitar technique, repertoire, music reading and theory will be the primary focus through group and individual instruction. **Home practice is a requirement for success** and is a gateway to musical and artistic independence outside of school.

The Intermediate Guitar course operating concurrently with the Beginning Guitar course is designed for advanced students who have completed at least one year of guitar and will involve peer teaching, frequent group and solo performance, and a program of intensive independent study tailored to the needs and interests of the individual learner. These select students are expected to be role models for the beginning students, and are relied upon in class to demonstrate high musicianship and a strong passion for making music.

REQUIRMENTS

- Acoustic or classical guitar, plus accessories: pick, footstool, capo.
- Workbook: H.O.T. First Year Guitar, Fourth Edition, by Nancy Lee Marsters
- Binder or folder for handouts, worksheets, homework, and past tests/quizzes.
- A \$10 lab fee (*covers class materials, emergency replacement strings and extra supplies as needed*), payable to the DRHS bookkeeper
- No prior musical experience is expected

EXPECTATIONS

- Treat all students, teachers and DRHS property with courtesy and respect.
- 100% attendance in class (*absences must have prior teacher approval*)
- Come to every class with your guitar & binder with all class materials.
- All work will be done with a pencil - *that you provide daily.*
- Acquire the best musical skills you can in the allotted time - do your best at all times, and practice outside of class time.
- Have a positive attitude
- Work well with others
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE MUSIC ROOM**

ABSENCES

Excused: You must contact Mr. Steptoe the same day of your return to DRHS. You will have the total number of days missed plus one day to make up any and all work from the date of your excused absence. This also includes all written and performance tests. *Utilize IC to your fullest potential!* Emailed or verbal notifications of impending absences are appreciated.

Unexcused: Will result in a loss of all daily points and those points for assignments or tests covered that day.

TARDY

Any student tardy without a pass from the office or another DRHS teacher will lose all classroom attendance points for the day. These cannot be made up at any time. (“To be Early is to be On Time...”)

TEST DEADLINE DATES DO NOT CHANGE DUE TO ABSENCES OR TARDINESS

excused or otherwise

GRADING

Points will be accumulated by using the following scale:

DAILY ATTENDANCE will be awarded with ten points per class period, assuming the successful completion of all in-class performance and theory requirements. You must have your guitar and binder with all music to gain a full ten points.

THEORY assignments and/or exams will use a simple percentage scale:

100 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
59 – 0	F

PERFORMANCE evaluations will use the following scale:

“A”

Notes, rhythms, articulations, dynamics and phrasing are correct and performed confidently. Slight errors (*if they occur*) are handled without stopping. Tempos are appropriate for the etude and for the skill and musicianship of the performer. **Mastery of the material is evident.**

“B”

Comprehension is demonstrated, as note and rhythmic **errors are almost nonexistent.** Stops (*if any*) are minor and recovered from quickly. Rhythms are performed correctly but may be uneven or have a tendency to change tempo. Dynamic contrast is present and convincing. Correct articulation is present although it may be inconsistent. Phrasing has been addressed and carefully worked out, but may not be refined. The performer occasionally displays expressive qualities which **elevate the piece beyond mere notes.**

“C”

An awareness of the key is present, though **frequent errors** may occur in notes and rhythms. Tempos are consistent, but may be significantly below those required. There is some dynamic contrast. **Frequent or occasional stops prevent any meaningful musical communication.**

“D”

There is superficial level of preparation and the presence of some fundamental technical skill. Wrong notes and rhythms are a constant distraction and little or no attention to articulation, phrasing and dynamics is evident.

“F”

An attempt was made to play the etude. There is a **sever lack of preparation or poor fundamental skill.** The student may not have finished the piece.

Students will have two class periods to retake any performance evaluation if an absence is excused.

SEMESTER GRADE

Daily Attendance and Participation will constitute **30%** of the semester grade

Exams and Performance evaluations will constitute **50%** of the semester grade

The Final Exam will constitute **20%** of the semester grade.

BEGINNING GUITAR

Classroom Policy Agreement

I have read the 2016 Beginning Guitar syllabus
and agree to accept the stated guidelines as a condition
of my participation in the class.

Student Signature

Date

I have read the 2016 Beginning Guitar syllabus
and agree to accept the stated guidelines as a condition
of my son or daughter's participation in the class.

Parent Signature

Date

*This agreement must be returned to Mr. Steptoe
by Friday, August 19th, 2016.*