



Ephrata High School Course Syllabus



Guitar Class 5650

I. Course Description

Guitar Class is designed for the beginner through advanced player who wishes to develop a deeper understanding of guitar playing techniques and musicianship. In addition, students are introduced to print music, tablature, and chord symbols as it is applied to both classical and contemporary music. Composition and songwriting are practiced throughout the duration of this class and performance skills will be stressed. A \$3.00 re-stringing fee will be required of students who use a school-owned guitar. This course may only be taken once.

II. Materials & Equipment

- Personal or school issued acoustic guitar (electric is suitable if an acoustic is not available)
- Jerry Snyder's Guitar School Book 1 and various supplemental material (provided by school)
- Guitar picks (sold at cost to students)

III. Course Goals & Objectives

- Students will demonstrate a theoretical understanding of music by:
 1. Performing analysis of rhythms (counting)
 2. Explaining meters
 3. Constructing and performing melodies
 4. Developing analytical listening skills
 5. Interpreting and applying musical terminology
- Students will demonstrate concepts of pitch awareness by:
 1. Adjusting individual pitch to match that of the group
 2. Identifying intonation problems during tuning process
- Students will demonstrate proper guitar playing technique by:
 1. Utilizing correct playing position
 2. Utilizing correct playing posture
- Students will demonstrate expressive playing habits by:
 1. Applying expression markings such as dynamics, accents, and phrase markings to their playing
- Students will develop ensemble performance experience by:
 1. Performing a wide variety of literature from the method book
 2. Practicing sight reading
- Students will develop technical proficiency by:
 1. Applying knowledge of fingerings where appropriate
 2. Preparing for and performing various playing exams.

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

*Please note this is not necessarily sequential and unit topics will be addressed throughout the course.

<p>Unit One:</p>	<p><u>Chords & Accompaniment</u> Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of Guitars, Parts of the Guitar Holding the Guitar Tuning the Guitar, Names of Strings Music Fundamentals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes and Rests Bar Lines, Measures, and Time Signatures Staff, Clef Signs, Frames, Tablature Chords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C and G7 (3 string chords) D, A7, G Accompaniment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Strum #1 </p>	<p><u>Learning to Read Music</u> Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing Technique Pickstyle Down-Stroke, Up-Stroke Fingerstyle Rest Stroke Note Reading Preparation Rhythm Drills Left-hand Drill Music Fundamentals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole, Half, Quarter notes Counting Rhythms Note Names Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E, F and G on the 1st string </p>
<p>Unit Two:</p>	<p><u>Chords & Accompaniment</u> Music Fundamentals & Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eighth Notes, Slashes, Mute Sign, Tablature Tonality, Principal Chords I, IV, V Key of D, Key of G Playing by ear Primary Bass or Root of the D, G and A7 Backbeat Swing Eighths, Shuffle Chords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A, C, D7 Accompaniment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Strum #2, Free Stroke, Bass/Chord Mute Technique, Latin Strum, Rock/Mute Strum Chord/Mute Strum, Blues Strum Blues Progression </p>	<p><u>Learning to Read Music</u> Music Fundamentals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tempo Markings Quarter Rest Repeat Sign Dotted Half Note $\frac{3}{4}$ Time Signature Dal Segno (D.S. al Fine) Tie Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B, C, D on the 2nd String </p>
<p>Unit Three:</p>	<p><u>Chords & Accompaniment</u> Music Fundamentals & Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First and Second Endings </p>	<p><u>Learning to Read Music</u> Music Fundamentals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Da Capo (D. C. al Fine) </p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Bass (root) • Vi (Em) and ii (Am) chord in the Key of G • Tie, ii (Em) chord in the Key of D • I-vi-IV-V chord progression • I-vi-ii-V chord progression • ii-V-I chord progression • Key of A, Principal Chords <p>Chords:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Em, Dsus, Am, E and E7 • A7, D7, E7 • Power Chords • Moveable Power Chords <p>Accompaniment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double Bass/Chord Strum • Syncopated Strum • Blues Shuffle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half Step, Whole Step • Sharps and Flats • Major Scale • G Major Scale • Key Signature • Key of G, Principal Chords <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G and A on the 3rd String • F# on the 1st string
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Please Note: Any further studies from the book will be determined by the class's ability level. It is possible that we will perform and work on contemporary literature and advanced guitar concepts.

V. Assignments & Grading

All grades will be based on the following:

- **Your individual progress as compared to your ability and potential will count towards your overall grade.** Your progress and musical skills will be assessed through:
 1. Playing exams. These live performance examinations will be held through out each marking period and will consist of:
 - a. Excerpts from the method books and supplemental materials.
 - b. All exam grades will be averaged into your final marking period average
- **Daily attendance and participation will count as 100 points towards your grade for the marking period.** Do not take this lightly! Your participation is crucial. Students will receive one of three participation ratings for each class.
 1. $\sqrt{+}$ = (actively engaged in class and above average participation, plus 1 point)
 2. $\sqrt{=}$ = (average participation)
 3. $\sqrt{-}$ = (unexcused absence, poor participation, disruptive behavior, minus 5 points)

At the beginning of the marking period all students will start with 90 points (all checks). Based on the number of check plusses or minuses, points will be added on or subtracted.
- **Extra credit assignments** will be available each marking period for those wishing to raise their grade. All extra credit assignments will be given a rating of 1% through 10%. This percentage will be added to your average.