

Course: Guitar I/II

Period: 3

Teacher: Ms. Katherine Wiley

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Room: 18

Objective: The objective of this class is to expose students to the language of music through a concentrated study of guitar. Upon completion of this course students will have the tools necessary to continue the study of guitar independently.

Introduction: This course is designed so that all students who have a positive attitude and strong work ethic might grow as musicians. Those students who are enrolled in Guitar II will continue to build on the foundation of Guitar I and use this course as a way to expand their understanding of technical skills. The classes will be taught at the same time covering the same topics, differences in assignments and grading will be made clear at the beginning of each new unit.

IMPORTANT: Full participation in all class lectures and activities is dependent on the student and his or her parent/guardian signing the statement of agreement on the last page of this syllabus. Upon its return, Ms. Wiley will sign the bottom of this syllabus and return it to the student. These signatures will constitute an agreement and contract binding of teacher and students to the policies included in the remainder of this document.

Structure: The Guitar course is divided into three primary sections (two for Guitar I,): I. Literacy, II. Dictation (Guitar II ONLY), III. Performance. Each section shall be taught in an integrated fashion.

I. Literacy: This is the ability to *understand* musical theory, symbols, themes, and vocabulary.

II. Dictation: This is the ability to *recognize* musical ideas and record them as they occur.

III. Performance: This is the ability to *interpret* musical symbols.

Weighting: Assessments of student skill/understanding shall be passed on the following scale:

50% Literacy (60% for Guitar 1)

Weekly notes: Turned in every other Thursday

In-Class Work

Take Home Assignments

Chapter Quizzes

Unit Tests

10% Dictation (Guitar II Only)

In-class dictation

Unit Tests

30% Performance
Participation
Unit Tests

5% Semester Final

5% Written Assignment
Attending 1 musical performance a semester and submitting a written reflection.

Unit Outlines: Shall be provided at the beginning of each unity, complete with assignments, their weights, and a projected timeline for due dates and unit quizzes/tests. The exact due dates will be confirmed by their posting on the whiteboard in the front of the room. Major projects will be assigned with a rubric that explains how they will be graded and a non-negotiable due date.

Absences: Music is an experiential art form. This means that you cannot authentically “make up” the activities and lessons you miss. Should you miss a class you must present an “excused” admit slip obtained from Office Two in order to have the opportunity to turn in or collect work missed. This is in keeping with the Konocti Unified School District’s Board Policy.

Should a student miss a test, they must take the test the next day they are present. It is the student’s responsibility to reschedule the test. It may not be rescheduled during class time.

Field Trip Permission Slips: Ms. Wiley will sign permission slips for school-related absences if the student has a C or above. For exceptions, please see Guitar Study Group.

Sports/Other Pre-Approved Absences: Students may turn in assignments due the date of an approved absence the day they return. They are responsible for collecting all materials assigned during their absence and the due dates for those materials will not be adjusted.

Office Hours: Ms. Wiley will have scheduled times outside of class where she is available to administer tests and/or answer homework questions. This schedule shall be posted at the beginning of every week but is subject to change. Any student wishing to take advantage of this opportunity must make an appointment. To fail to attend an appointment is to forfeit your right to take the test.

Guitar Study Groups: All students are encouraged to form a Guitar Study Group. This community allows students to share ideas, understanding, and questions in a social environment. Study Groups may work on take home assignments, study for test and quizzes or practice together. Study Groups must meet for one hour every week outside of class time in order to be considered active, as well as detail the materials covered in a brief written report to be supplied to Ms. Wiley every Friday.

Any student wishing to attend a field trip but not meeting the minimum grade requirements may have that requirement waived if and only if he or she is part of an active Guitar Study Group and has turned in bonus assignments demonstrating effort. Ms. Wiley is the ultimate judge as to what constitutes effort.

Bonus Assignments: Each unit outline will come complete with a list of possible bonus assignments. These are not extra credit opportunities, but may be used for extra practice, study materials, busy work, or a demonstration of effort.

Re-Dos: A student must be a “Master” at Music Theory in order to be comfortable taking the AP Test. With this in mind, all students are allowed to retake assignments one time pending the following criteria:

- The assignment was turned in on the original due date (or following the absent policy).
- The student has studied/practiced their skills and believe it will result in an improved performance.
- The student has made an appointment to retake the assignment during Ms. Wiley’s Office Hours.
- The student has not missed an appointment.
- The Unit has not ended.
- Tests may be retaken up until the next Unit Test.

Extra Credit: These opportunities will be few and far between. When available, they will be announced in class. There are no make-ups for extra credit and no late work will be accepted for credit.

Other: Any topic not covered in this document is in keeping with the school rules for student conduct written in your planners.

Statement of Agreement:

By signing below you, the student or parent/guardian are signifying that you have read and understand the syllabus for Guitar I/Guitar II. This will be kept as a record of your agreement with the policies indicated within. Any substantial changes to the policies shall result in a new syllabus being drafted and submitted to students and parents for approval before being put into effect. Once this statement has been turned in Ms. Wiley will sign the bottom of the syllabus and students are encouraged to keep it for their records.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date