

Mojave High School

Course Expectations 2020-2021

Beginning Guitar

Instructor: William Freeman

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Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an intermediate level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful musician.

Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flatpicking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, bass playing, finger picking styles, melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences. This course may be repeated for credit.

This course will fulfill either the one arts/humanities credit or one of the elective credits required for graduation. Grades 9-12.

Course Goals:

- To use correct posture and appropriate hand positions. [MU:A6. HSI]
- To identify and name the parts of the guitar. [MU:A5. HSI]
- To demonstrate proper tuning of the guitar by pitch matching. [MU:A5. HSI]
- To read standard music notation and play on all six strings in first position up to the fourth fret. [MU:A5. HSI]
- To identify chord diagrams and play major, minor and dominant seventh chords in first position in the keys of C, G, D, A, Am, E & Em. [MU:A7. HSI]
- To play melodies in the keys of C, Am, G, Em, D, Bm, F and Dm. [MU:A7. HSI]
- To play C, G, A, D, and E major scales in first position. [MU:A6. HSI]
- To identify and use p-i-m-a including rest stroke and free stroke. [MU:A4. HSI]
- To apply facilities in flat picking including alternate picking. [MU:A4. HSI]
- To strum rhythms to include whole, half, quarter and eighth notes including simple syncopation. [MU:A4. HSI]
- To use power chords using roots on sixth, fifth and fourth strings. [MU:A5. HSI]
- To identify and perform in time signatures 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4 in a variety of tempos. [MU:A7. HSI]
- To play effectively and dependably as a part of an ensemble. As a class, the students should have a repertoire of a least four ensemble selections at any given time after the first nine weeks they can play accurately and musically. [MU:A6. HSI]

Textbooks:

- *Beginning Guitar Superbook* by Will Schmid
- *Beginning Guitar* by Paul Henry
- *Teaching Beginning Guitar* by Bill Swick
- Intermediate and Advanced Guitar Techniques from Bill Swick, former CCSD Guitar Taskforce Chair

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Student Supplies:

Students are expected to have and maintain the following supplies all year:

- Spiral Notebook
- Three-ring binder
- Writing utensils: Pencil for daily work
- Guitar (class-set borrowed in-class)
 - Within the first month of returning school, each student will be assigned a guitar, seat, and music folder number. The number will be the same for all three items. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all materials are taken care of.
 - In the event that a guitar breaks, it must be reported to the teacher immediately. If, when retrieving your assigned guitar for the day, you notice that it is damaged, you must notify the teacher immediately. Since each student will follow the same procedure, it will be easy to track down who the "culprit" is.
 - Guitars are expensive instruments. **Any destruction or damage accrued to the guitar beyond broken strings will be charged to you.** We all must do our best to keep our instruments preserved for the betterment of everyone.
- OPTIONAL: Practice guitar at home - **the school does not loan out guitars!**

Tardy, Dress Code, and School-wide Expectations and Policies:

Tardiness is a serious disruption to the educational program. Every student is required to be in class when the tardy bell rings. With that in mind, the Mojave High School Tardy Policy will be strictly enforced along with all school-wide behavior expectations including Dress Code and usage of cell phones during instructional time.

Grading Policy:

Description of Grading Procedures:

- Guitar, like all music performance classes, is primarily participation based. If you don't participate in-class, you won't grow as a guitarist thus not only will your participation grade suffer, but so will your skills-based grades.
 - Performance grades are earned weekly
- Notebook/folder/music checks.
 - You are expected to retain possession of your materials, and not lose them. **The teacher does not provide additional copies. If you lose something, it is your responsibility to get a spare copy. Do not ask the teacher for a second copy.**
- **GRADING GUIDELINES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING:**
 - During distance learning first semester gradebooks should have a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 assignments per quarter. No single assignment should be more than 10% of the grade.
 - Essentially this means no formative/summative assessments as we are used-to during distance (online) learning.
- **GRADING GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION (IF/WHEN WE RETURN):**
 - Homework
 - Homework at regular intervals that reinforces concepts and skills taught in-class. Homework will not require the physical use of a guitar.
 - Assessments

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- Examples of formative assessments (30% of grade) - Typically 50 points each
- Informal playing tests down the line, scale/chord quizzes, note quizzes, etc.
- Examples of summative assessments (70% of grade) - Typically 100 points each
 - One-on-one playing tests, one-on-one scale/chord tests, notation tests, Google Classroom posts
- Performances (300 points of summative grade - No more than 10% of grade during distance education)
 - ALL students are expected to attend ALL guitar performances whether the student is performing or not. Make-up assignments will only be given for students that can provide documented proof of an emergency from a third-party, verifiable source (ie. Physician's note, court order, parole/probation officer, etc.). There are no make-up assignments given for students that missed the concert due to transportation issues, "forgetting," work, or sporting practices (games/meets/matches are excused, if work is made-up).
- Semester Grades:
 - 45% Quarter 1 and 3 Grade
 - 45% Quarter 2 and 4 Grade
 - 10% Semester Final Examination
- **Mojave Grading Policy:**
 - A – Excellent 90-100%
 - B – Above Average 80-89%
 - C – Average 70-79%
 - D – Below Average 60-69%
 - F – Failure to Meet 0-59%
- **Citizenship:**

The Mojave HS online expectation matrix will be used to determine citizenship grade

Make-up Work and Late Work:

- With the exception of concert-participation and Google Classroom posts, every student is able to make-up/re-do every assignment until the end of the quarter. *Many students, seeking to pad their GPA, will retake the test until they receive a perfect score.*
- After an absence, students will be expected to check the make-up work area in each class. Make-up work will be located on a wall calendar or in a notebook. These centralized locations will hold standardized procedures for all students.
- Students must obtain make-up work within three SCHOOL days of an absence, unless other arrangements with the teacher are made.
- Students are responsible for getting/requesting make-up work and making arrangements to make-up tests/quizzes. Students are responsible for checking Canvas modules to see what they missed.

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- Missing work will receive no credit.

Online Procedures:

- All students will turn off mics and cameras unless instructed otherwise.
- All classes will be recorded and placed in the canvas classroom for review.
- All students are responsible for maintaining a working Chromebook at all times and shall use care to ensure that the Chromebook is not damaged.

Office Hours:

The instructor is available from 1:40 PM to 3:06 PM daily for any make-up performance tests, coaching, or meetings. If a student needs assistance with special skills or concepts beyond the thirty minute intervention time provided in-class, it is recommended that the student seeks out extra help from the teacher.

Digital Classroom Behavior Expectations:

- Abide by the CCSD Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- School appropriate dress is required during participation.
- Polite language is expected and required.
- Keep all background noise to a minimum. Mute your device and actively listen if background noise is unavoidable.
- Choose an area with enough space for necessary items. (paper, pens, computer)
- Speak in a clear manner so everyone can hear.
- Do not record the session. The privacy of all participants is paramount.
- Exit the meeting when the meeting time is over. Your instructor will be the first one on and the last one out of the meeting.
- Only accept invitations to meetings from your teacher and do not create your own meetings.
- Web cameras are not required to be on.

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Please complete this page and return by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020.

Acknowledgement of Course Expectations

BEGINNING GUITAR

We have read and discussed the course description and expectations.

Student's name [last, first]

Student's Signature

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Home phone

Work/Cell phone

Parent's Email Address