

# HHS Guitar Class Syllabus

2014-2015

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### Welcome to Guitar Class at HHS!

**W**elcome to an exciting new year in the HHS Music Program! This course is filled with opportunities for you to gain access to many different styles of guitar playing and hopefully you will find that it meets all of your expectations.

**I**n this packet you will find all the information you will need to have complete success in this course. Listed along side this introduction you will see a list of course requirements, a syllabus, grading policy and several other important and useful hints.

You and your parents are encouraged to go through this packet and ask any questions you might have along the way!

**M**y hope for you is that you will be able to master basic guitar playing and music-reading skills as a result of this course. High expectations are set for every student but be assured that every goal in this syllabus is reachable! We will do our best to facilitate a learning environment where all things are possible!

*“Where words fail, music speaks” - Hans Christian Anderson*

### What do I need to take Guitar at HHS?

- **My own Acoustic Guitar**. If you do not own an acoustic guitar, you must acquire one before Tuesday, September 3. If you have any questions about purchasing a guitar, please contact me via email for recommendations.
- A **2” Binder** with **Three Dividers** labeled Theory Notes, Written Assignments, & Repertoire.
- A **Pencil (or 3)** – it’s always good to have an extra, and one to share.
- The **Will to Learn** and discover your musical talents.

# Grading Breakout for Guitar

## **Classroom Performance: 35%**

- \* Student has all materials necessary in order to accomplish daily lesson objectives
- \* Student plays assigned materials during class time
- \* Student demonstrates proper playing techniques during class time
- \* Student completes group work and individual classroom assignments

## **Skill Assessments: 35%**

- \* Student performs assigned repertoire in groups and alone to demonstrate proficiency on the instrument
- \* Students will be assessed based on attached rubric and other formative assessments

## **Assignments / Quizzes / Etc.: 20%**

- \* Students will be given several written assessments on material covered in class. These assessments will come in the form of:
  - Listening Guides and Listening Responses
  - Journal Responses and Self-Reflections
  - Quizzes covering Music Theory and Guitar Facts
  - Projects & Presentations

## **Class Preparedness: 10%**

- \* Students will be expected to attend class prepared each day, bringing all materials necessary for success in class.

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| <p><b><u>Re-Assessments</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will have opportunities to be reassessed on material that they feel they can improve upon.</li><li>2. Students will have an opportunity to relearn and be reassessed during the week following an assessment and will need to arrange those make-up times with the teacher before school, after school, or at lunch.</li></ol> |
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# What is Expected of the Students?

*Although this is a relaxed classroom atmosphere, there are certain expectations that must be met when dealing with such a class! Please read over these classroom expectations and don't be afraid to ask questions.*

## RULES AND PROCEDURES

**Come Prepared:** You will need a binder for all of your materials and information. 3 Dividers will be necessary for theory notes, written assignments and repertoire. You will be required to bring your instrument, pencil, and binder to each class session.

**GRADING:** You will be given specific assignments, deadlines and procedures for receiving grades in this course. NO assignments will be accepted after the deadline and students must show verification that their absences are excused for any missed work.

**Phones? iPods? DVD Players?:** Unless we are working on an assignment where I have asked you to bring in other media, you may not have these items in my classroom.

**RESPECT** This is a class based on respect. You can always expect the utmost respect from me and I will always expect the same in return. Your opinions and ideas are valuable to me. You will be expected to respect the teacher and your peers when they are speaking or performing. If you have concerns with any aspects of the course feel free to meet with me before or after school.

### ***WHAT CAN STUDENTS EXPECT FROM THE TEACHER?***

I will always be available to you when you have questions or need additional help outside of class. Not everyone will be able to learn and perform at the same rate, so I am happy to assist you in any way necessary but you **MUST** ask for help in order to receive it. *Never be afraid to ask for help when it is needed!*

# Course Timeline for Guitar

## Quarter 1

- Guitar Knowledge: The Parts of the Guitar, The History of the Guitar, How the Guitar Works
- Musical Notation: Parts of the Staff, Reading Pitch, Reading Rhythm
- Other Guitar Notation: Reading Chords
- Finger Numbers, Tuning your Instrument, The First Three Frets
- Guitar Method Book Lessons
- Guitar Theory Lessons

## Quarter 2

- Elements of the Blues
- Elements of Rock and Roll
- Elements of Classical Guitar
- Beginning Solos/Duets/Small Ensemble Pieces
- Folk/Rock/Seasonal Coffee House/Community Performances

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## **How can I stay on track? 8 survival tips:**

### **1. Ask Questions!**

Always ask for help and be honest about your progress.

### **2. Be Assertive!**

The key to moving ahead is self-motivation and determination. Take charge of your own progress and assert yourself inside and out of the classroom.

### **3. Organize your Time:**

Map out how much time you will need on materials and don't waste time being confused. Ask for help right away!

### **4. Help Each Other**

Many of you may have prior knowledge with guitar. Help each other and make connections. You may need some help in return one day!

### **5. Practice**

Free period? Lunch? After School? Couldn't hurt!

### **6. LISTEN!**

I will never expect you to do anything you haven't been prepared for. The key to learning is listening. Open communication between student and teacher is so important!

### **7. Try Something New!**

If you haven't tried it before, now is your chance. Don't make judgments too quickly! Keep an open mind.

### **8. HAVE FUN!**

How fortunate are we to have the opportunity to take music classes in school!? Many countries don't offer music courses or don't have the funds. Soak up this time, let this class build your character and talents.

Most of all....HAVE FUN!!!

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What we play, is life!- Louis Armstrong