

# GUITAR CLASS SYLLABUS

*Instructor:* Mr. King

*Email:* [Kingc@k12coffee.net](mailto:Kingc@k12coffee.net) (best contact)

*Band Office Phone:* (931) 723-5175

## Course Description

This course is designed for the beginning or intermediate guitar student. The class is taught in a group setting but also involves individual responsibilities. **\*No prior guitar experience is necessary, however outside study and practice is required.** \* I want you all to be successful inside and outside my classroom, and practice is the only way to ensure that happens effectively.

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Identify parts of the guitar
2. Tune the guitar properly using relative tuning and a tuner
3. Read music including the following aspects:
  - a. Standard notation-including an understanding of these elements of music:
    - i. Rhythm
    - ii. Melody
    - iii. Harmony
    - iv. Form
    - v. Tempo
    - vi. Dynamics
  - b. Chord symbols/charts
  - c. Tablature, staff notation, and how to convert to and from each of these
4. Perform music using proper guitar technique (fingering, posture, hand position, etc.)

5. Perform standard guitar literature in a group setting as well as individually
6. Sight-read selected exercises and songs
7. Have knowledge of basic guitar history

National Standards: Perform, Create, Respond, Connect

**\*\*ALL STUDENTS WILL PERFORM A PIECE LIVE AT FINE ARTS NIGHT IN FEBRUARY 24th AS A CLASS ENSEMBLE. THIS IS A MANDATORY PERFORMANCE\*\***

### Expectations of Students

1. Each student **must** have an acoustic guitar that is available to them for class and outside practice. You will not be able to share a guitar with another student in your class **nor any other class**. That being said, a guitar will be provided for you to check out if you do not have one. However, there is a limited number of class guitars available, so it is in your best interest to purchase or borrow your own. (Here is a Link to a great starter kit you can purchase on Amazon for \$45: [Beginner Guitar Kit-Amazon](#))
2. Each student is expected to bring a guitar, paper, handouts that are given, and a pencil **EVERY DAY. Points will be deducted if a student is not prepared.**
3. Each student is expected to participate in class activities with a positive attitude.
4. Each student is expected to make arrangements for daily practice outside of class.
5. Each student is expected to be responsible for transporting their guitar and music stands. Both must be stored in their designated area after class.
6. Each student is expected to keep track of any missed assignments/tests. If absent, refer to Google Classroom for any missed items, or the cabinet for hard copies. Students are encouraged to get contact information from other students for easy communication of missed assignments.
7. **Each student is expected to be prepared and in class on time.**
8. **Any form of cheating or plagiarizing will not be tolerated.** Any communication during tests, quizzes, or in-class assignments unless otherwise instructed by the teacher will be treated as cheating even if it is unrelated to the task at hand. If a student is caught, they will be given a 0 for that assignment. A second offense will result in an office referral.
9. Students are expected to adhere to all rules stated in the Student Handbook.
10. It is perfectly fine of course, but it is not recommended for any student to have

longer-than-usual or expensive manicured nails, or wear excessive jewelry or “hand accessories” while playing guitar. These kinds of things may get in the way and impair your ability to play accurately, which then will affect your grade.

**11. Students must always be respectful to the instructor and their classmates at all times. Everyone will not always be on the same level musically, and every student must acknowledge that fact.**

**12. Most importantly, every student is required to have fun! It is mandatory!**

### **Band Room Rules**

1. Food is never allowed in the band room at any time regardless of what class is in there at the time. Drinks, EXCLUDING SODA, are allowed as long as they are in school-approved twist-cap containers (or something very similar). If any kind of spill occurs, the person who spilled it is solely responsible for cleaning it up.
2. Cell phones may not be accessed during class, virtually or in person at any time other than at the beginning of class for tuning apps and during practice times for metronome apps.
3. Earbuds are not allowed to be used at all, ever, for any reason other than practice time to hear a metronome or song. If any such device is being used or if a student refuses to remove them when asked, they will be confiscated and all daily points will be relinquished for that class.
4. Guitars must be placed back on the racks or assigned cubbies in the specific spot from where they were taken. **YOU CAN ONLY USE YOUR PERSONAL GUITAR OR THE ONE ASSIGNED TO YOU! You may NOT play any other instruments around the room under any circumstances.**
5. Any and all of my materials: plectrums, capos, tuners, etc. may NEVER leave this room. All materials must be returned at the end of class.
6. A seating chart will only be implemented within the first two weeks of school to ensure I can learn all of your names. Beyond that, you may sit where you like until a problem occurs requiring me to move you. **YOU MAY NOT PUT YOUR FEET UP IN A CHAIR.**
7. I almost never say “no” when a student asks to use the bathroom. However, I only have one hall pass. I encourage everyone to use the bathroom BEFORE class.

## Grading

1. Each class will be worth 5 points. These points are included within the 10% Daily Participation/Preparedness category listed below. This means each week is worth 25 points regardless of snow days or holidays (students receive a “free” 5 points on those days, basically) for a total of 225 points each quarter. If necessary, points will be deducted based on the student's attendance, punctuality, participation, preparedness, adherence to school policies, and behavior. **ANY unexcused absences\* from class will result in a zero for the day, which can be made up within one week upon returning by completing a predetermined make-up assignment.**

**\*Absences involving anything related to COVID will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Your daily points will not be taken away and you may make up any necessary assignments.**

**N.B.: 3 tardies=1 absence.**

2. Written assignments are due at the end of class or the following school day, unless otherwise indicated, and that date will be posted on GC attached to each assignment. **I will accept late work for full credit up to one week after the assigned due date, and 70% credit until the end of the quarter.**
3. When submitting work on GC, make sure to press the “turn in” button and/or “Mark as Done” button as well as submitting/attaching any Google Forms or Docs as necessary. Remember you can edit any assignment multiple times before the deadline and “submit” as many times as you like prior to the due date. **Parents/guardians needing access to course materials may do so by emailing me, then I will either send requested materials directly or invite them to join the Classroom.**

Google Classroom Codes:

Guitar 1-Period 1: 3a6p2vt

Guitar 1-Period 2: nmss3yo

Guitar 2-Period 1: nwzghfa

Guitar 2-Period 2: nzhzpsw

4. Each week there will be a playing test. Each student will play alone, or with others, songs, exercises, scales, or chords they have learned from that week. Written tests will also be given periodically. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE TIME TO COME MAKE UP TESTS IF YOU MISS THEM!** No penalty will be incurred for a make-up test, students will receive full credit as long as arrangements are made by that student to make it up within the quarter it was assigned.
5. **Students are required to practice at home throughout the week.**

**Students will be evaluated using the following parameters**

**Q1 and Q3**

A. Daily Participation/Preparedness	10%
B. Written Activities	20%
C. Playing Tests (including performance)	30%
D. Written Tests	30%
E. Bellringers	10%

**Q2 and Q4**

A. Daily Participation/Preparedness	7%
B. Written Activities	17%
C. Playing Tests (including performances)	27%
D. Written Tests	27%
E. Bellringers	7%
F. Quarter Exam	15%

## Renaissance Incentives

To apply these incentives, the student must physically or virtually present their card to me during the final week of each quarter.

*Red or White Card-* Drop 2 Daily or Written Activity Grades

*Black or Silver Card-* Drop Lowest Daily or WA Grade

## Materials

1. Acoustic Guitar (provided if necessary)
2. Plectrum (provided if necessary)
3. It is recommended that you have your own Folder/Binder of your choice for easy access and storage of all graded items and handouts.
4. ProMetronome Phone Application (required, if applicable) or other personal metronome of some kind (recommended). Here is a link to my favorite metronome for the price, and it also includes a standard tuner that can be hooked up to an electric guitar for more precise tuning: [Korg Metronome/Tuner](#)
5. Pencil, notebook paper, staff paper, and TAB paper (provided when necessary)
6. It is NOT recommended to use permanent ink on anything involving music as mistakes are inevitable. I am a professional who has studied music for twenty years and I make mistakes on my music every single day. If you have nothing else, or if you so choose to use ink, it MUST be Blue/Black Pen ONLY-**No Exceptions! I will hand your assignment or test back to you if I see ANY OTHER COLOR and you will start over or receive a zero for that assignment!**
7. Tuner (not required as we are going to learn relative tuning by ear, but the Snark brand guitar tuner I really like is inexpensive and clips directly onto the guitar for precise tuning. Follow this link to find it on Amazon: [Snark Tuner](#) )

I am looking forward to a great year!

**\*\*\*Syllabus subject to change at any time for any reason\*\*\***

