

WELCOME TO GUITAR CLASS

It is a privilege to welcome you to the Beginning Guitar Class at Foothill High School. I know you will enjoy being a part of this class that will teach you basic musicianship and guitar skills.

The overall objective of this course is to introduce the guitar to the student. The student will be encouraged to improve their performance abilities on the instrument, their self-discipline, and their ability to work within a group. This will be done through group rehearsals, performances, assigned responsibilities within the class, and specific expectations of the students.

Music is an integral part of a well-rounded educational program. It has a long track record for building self-discipline and integrity, providing unique opportunities for self-expression and creativity. This course offers each student the opportunity to strive for and attain his/her maximum potential while gaining a deeper appreciation of music.

This handbook is provided to make you aware of the various aspects of this class. I encourage you and your parents to become familiar with all of the items in this handbook, as it will help to make you a more successful member of the guitar class.

Sincerely,

Mr. Waters

799-3500 x 4040

npwaters@interact.ccsd.net

Foothill High School

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one year course is designed for students with NO previous guitar experience who have the desire to learn how to play the guitar. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include: guitar history, correct posture, note reading, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences. This elective course may not be repeated for credit.

Each student is required to purchase their own copy of the text book used in class. Students will not be allowed to “share” books and will be graded daily for having all required class materials, including this text. Books will be made available for purchase in class for \$20.00 each. The text we will be using is as follows:

**Beginning Guitar Superbook by: Will Schmid
Hal Leonard publishing**

COURSE GOALS

- 1. To develop correct posture and hand position.**
- 2. To identify the parts of the guitar and string designation.**
- 3. To demonstrate proper care and maintenance of the guitar.**
- 4. To develop an awareness of correct tuning of the open strings.**
- 5. To understand the history and origin of the guitar.**
- 6. To identify and respond appropriately to musical notation.**
- 7. To learn basic fundamentals of rhythm, note reading, key and time signatures.**
- 8. To recognize form in music.**
- 9. To learn basic chords, scales, and bass lines in first positions.**
- 10. To learn proper strumming, finger style, and flat picking techniques.**
- 11. To demonstrate proper placement of movable “E” and “A” type bar chords.**
- 12. To develop an awareness of position playing, movable scales, and transposition.**

- 13. To become aware of tablature as it relates to the guitar.**
- 14. To improvise using short melodic phrases, variations, and chord progressions.**
- 15. To become aware of career opportunities.**
- 16. To understand the relationship between music and other disciplines.**

Objectives

- 1. To enrich and enhance the life of each student through music.**
- 2. To develop in each student a greater love of music.**
- 3. To cultivate responsibility and mutual respect among the students.**
- 4. To understand the basic elements of music: melody, harmony, and rhythm.**
- 5. To experience music as a tool of individual and group expression.**
- 6. To become familiar with the music of various cultures, ages, and styles.**
- 7. To deal with the discipline and challenges of learning a musical instrument.**
- 8. To develop the skill of critical analysis.**

National Music Standards

- 1. Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.**
- 2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.**
- 3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.**
- 4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.**
- 5. Reading and notating music.**
- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.**
- 7. Evaluating music and music performances.**
- 8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.**
- 9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.**

GRADING POLICY

Because this class will be taught on a group level and not an individual level, the rehearsal is the environment in which learning takes place. For the teacher to teach and the student to learn, all students must learn proper rehearsal behavior. Each student's grade will be determined by the total amount of accumulated points at the end of the quarter or semester. The total points earned will then be fit into a scale. If you have:

- 90-100% of the total points, you receive and A**
- 80- 89% of the total points, you receive a B**
- 70-79% of the total points, you receive a C**
- 60-69% of the total points, you receive a b**
- 59% and lower of the total points, you receive an F**

Students will be graded in the following areas:

Daily Participation and Attendance 0-10 points

Assignments 0-100 points

**Written and/or Playing Tests (Skills Proficiencies and Playing Exams)
0-100 points**

**Written Report and Presentation on a Famous Guitar Player 0-300
points**

Extra Credit and Make-Up Work 0-100 points

Daily Participation and Attendance is extremely important to be successful in any course. Due to the nature of this activity, your attendance, attitude, and participation in daily rehearsals affect the product of the entire group. For this reason, great importance has been placed in this area. Please keep this in mind when contemplating tardies, absences, and your behavior in class.

Limitation of Absences

The limitation of absences for secondary school is ten (10) unapproved per semester. If a student exceeds (10) unapproved absences in any course, he/she may not receive credit for that course for the semester. Any student who has 11 + unapproved absences will lose the privilege of playing guitar and will be required to do bookwork for the rest of the semester.

Prearranged Absences

All prearranged absences in excess of ten per school year are considered unapproved for purposes of the absence limitation. THEY ARE NOT TRUANCIES

All prearranged absences for which the makeup work was not done and submitted as required by the teacher (in accordance with the provision for makeup work in Section VII of the regulation) are also considered unapproved (but not truancies).

Assignments You will receive assignments that are to be completed during class or will be assigned as homework to be turned in on an assigned day. Late work will not be accepted.

Skills Proficiencies and Playing Exams

This is where the instructor evaluates each student's playing ability in the given areas of study. Designated technical skills will be tested individually. These proficiencies will allow the teacher to pay special attention to the development of each student's skills, especially in the areas of hand and body position. All playing exams will be covered in class and the student will be given adequate time to practice the material in which he/she will be graded. Playing tests can be made up with other written assignments. Playing tests can not be played outside of the class time in which the test was given.

Extra Credit

Extra credit points are given for attending any extra rehearsals, attending or participating in live performances, or watching special musical TV programs. If a student has an excused absence, he/she may make up his/her lost participation points and assignments by writing a one page description of what he/she heard musically during the time they listened. All extra credit work must reflect the work that a student had missed or did not complete. Extra credit will not be given to any student who has incomplete assignments in class or who has zeros in the grade book.

Make-Up Work

Students are allowed three days after the return from an absence to request homework, and schools must provide at least three days for the assignments to be completed and submitted.

Written Report

A three to five page report is required on a famous guitar player of the student's choice. A detailed handout explaining the expectations of the paper will be handed out by Mr. Waters prior to the project.

In-Class Performances

Every member of the guitar class is a key performer and has a vital role in the musical organization. The success of the entire class depends upon everyone attending each performance. Performances are not optional. They are a required part of the class. Performances will be held during class time. If a student feels ambitious and wishes to participate in other performance opportunities, the challenge and the opportunity are available. See Mr. Waters for details.

Final Grade

The student's final exam grade will count for 20% of the overall semester grade. Both quarters will be weighted equally (40%) and will therefore count 80% combined. However, for students who earn an A for first/second or third/fourth quarters, final exams will not count for more than 10% of their semester grade.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Discipline Plan

- 1. Warning (verbal) with a possible loss of doily participation points.**
- 2. Putting instrument away for the remainder of the class.**
- 3. Isolation from the group.**
- 4. Phone call to parents.**
- 5. Referral to dean.**

CLASS RULES

- 1. Be in seat on time with instrument, pencil, and music/book.**
- 2. Tardies are not acceptable. (The FHS tardy policy will be followed.)**
- 3. Follow directions/Stay on task.**
- 4. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself.**
- 5. Play or speak only when asked.**
- 6. No gum, food or beverages allowed in the classroom.**
- 7. Corridor passes will be given on an emergency basis only.**

SEVERE CLAUSE Any behavior which disrupts the entire class may be considered cause to be sent to the dean of students. Continued misbehavior will cause the consequence to start at a higher level on the list.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to do their own work.

Relying on unauthorized sources for answers on exams, quizzes, or other class projects is cheating. You will receive a -0- grade for that exam, quiz, or project. You may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

Copying the work of others and attempting to pass it off as your own is plagiarism. You will receive a -0- grade for that assignment. You may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

Students and parents must complete the "Academic Dishonesty" policy notification at the beginning of the school year. If you aren't sure, ask your teacher before you do it.

Tardy Policy

Tardiness is an unacceptable interruption of the teaching and learning process. In order to create an atmosphere conducive to learning in the classroom, students are required to be in their class when the tardy bell rings. Students who are thirty or more minutes tardy to class will be counted absent

A student's first two tardies will result in teacher assigned consequences based on the teacher's progressive discipline plan. Consequences may include loss of participation points, teacher detention, phone calls home, etc. If a student is tardy a third time, the teacher will send the student to the dean's office. Subsequent tardies will result in the student being placed on Required Parent Conference and receiving additional consequences. Tardies will accumulate in each class throughout the semester.

Tardy sweeps conducted by the deans will be implemented beginning in September. Students who arrive late to class during a tardy sweep will be issued a deans' detention for the following day. Subsequent tardy sweep violations may result in the student receiving additional consequences.

Materials needed for success

1. Guitars

Each student will be assigned to a school provided guitar. The student is expected to use his/her assigned instrument each day he/she comes to class. No personal guitars will be allowed in the classroom unless a designated "bring your guitar" day has been designated by the teacher. The student will be expected to handle the guitar correctly and to report any problems to Mr. Waters immediately. It is encouraged that each student has a guitar at home so that he/she may practice. No guitars can be checked out or taken home. If a student needs extra practice time at school, he/she may arrange a time when he/she can practice in the guitar room other than during class time.

2. Textbooks will be made available for purchase at school for

\$20.00 Checks should be made payable to Foothill High

School Guitar Program

3. \$10.00 course fee

4. Guitar Picks (student's choice of thickness)

5. Pencil

6. Three-ring binder

OTHER INFORMATION

Course Fee

All students are expected to pay a \$10.00 course fee for the year. This money pays for the repair of instruments and replacement of strings as well as other classroom supplements. Checks should be made payable to Foothill High School Guitar Program.

Notebooks

All students are to keep a notebook with three rings. The notebook should contain the guitar handbook, paper for taking notes, all written assignments, music, and other information as indicated by the instructor. Students must pay for any lost music.

Practice

In order for the students to be successful on their instrument, they must practice. Skills proficiencies and playing exams will reflect the amount of practice performed by each individual.

Private Lessons

Students are encouraged to study with a private teacher to improve playing techniques and for general overall enrichment. Information regarding private lessons will be made available to students at the student's request.

Office Hours

Mr. Waters' office hours are Tuesday –Friday 1:16-2:00 or by appointment.

GUITAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CALL MR. WATERS AT SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A QUESTION OR A CONCERN AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE THAT MY OFFICE NUMBER IS 799-3500 EXT. 4040. You May also e-mail me NPWATERS@Interact.CCSD.net

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CONTRACT

This handbook will familiarize all guitar students and their parents with the policies and the expectations of the guitar department. Grading policies and classroom procedures should be read with care so that a misunderstanding will not occur later in the year.

After you have read the entire handbook, please fill out the needed information and sign below. Returning it will count as one of the student's test grades. The remainder of the handbook is to be placed in the student's music notebook and kept there for the remainder of the year.

We have read the Beginning Guitar Handbook and fully understand the rules, regulations, and other policies of the Beginning Guitar Class.

Print Student's Name

Signature of Guitar Student

DATE

Signature of Guitar Parent/Guardian

DATE

Video Permission Form

During the course of our studies, we will be watching videos that deal with the subject matter of the class. Some of these movies may be rated PG. Please indicate if your child does/does not have permission to watch movies that are rated PG by initialing your choice. Students will be given an alternative assignment if they cannot watch PG rated videos.

My child has permission to watch movies that are rated PG. _____

My child does not have permission to watch movies that are rated PG. _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Name (Please Print) _____

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

BEGINNING

GUITAR HANDBOOK

2007-2008

Mr. Waters

Room 409

