*Beginning Guitar*

2017-2018

Wachusett Regional High School

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http://mrmillerwrhsmusicclasses.weebly.com



***Course description and objectives***

This course is a one semester, ‘hands-on’ class designed for students who have had *little or no* prior guitar instruction and would like to learn how to play the guitar. The course will include familiarization with the guitar, music reading, basic music theory, playing single note melodies, chords, and small ensemble playing. By the end of the semester students should be able to play and perform songs. Student progress will be measured and graded by periodic performance exams.

***Course Rationale***

Music is a part of our everyday life- we hear it in the store, at home, on TV, and we listen to it on our phones, on the radio, and elsewhere. Gaining a better understanding of music means gaining a better understanding of the world around us. Finding ways to express oneself musically beyond simply listening is an important aspect of gaining that understanding. This course is designed to help students explore a new way of expressing oneself musically, to gain a better understanding of the musical art form, and to better understand the world around them.

***Topics Covered***

In this course, we will cover a wide variety of topics related to the guitar and to music in general. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

* History (Classical, jazz, and pop)
* Playing Technique
* Music Theory (Scales, chords, etc.)
* Reading Music/Notation

***Instructional Methods***

In this course, you will experience the material in a variety of ways including, but not limited to the following: lecture, class discussion, group work, individual practice, demonstrations, listening, investigation, and research.

***Course Materials***

1. 3-ring binder
2. Notebook or loose-leaf paper
3. PENCIL
4. Any materials previously distributed

***WRHS Mission Statement and Core Values***

"Wachusett Regional High School is committed to an educational process that fosters independence and responsibility in our students. By offering diverse, challenging, academic programs and rich co-curricular activities, WRHS strives to provide students with the skills and knowledge to achieve their potential as life-long learners."

We work toward achieving this mission by promoting our core values of Citizenship and Responsibility, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, and Creativity and Innovation.

***Classroom rules***

1. Be respectful of people and equipment.
2. Be prepared for class each day.
3. No eating/drinking/gum- clear water is OK.
4. Make music at all times
5. Clean up after yourself
6. Work hard

***Homework/Practice Policy***

You will be given homework assignments in this course, written, online, and otherwise. They will be graded according to the policy outlined below. Please remember that practicing is an extremely important aspect for any musician. If you do not practice, you will not improve. While practice time will be given in class, you are welcome to come after school for extra practice time. Please schedule this with me in advance.

***Grading procedures – Daily work, tests, projects, assignments, long-term projects, etc.***

Students will be graded according to a points/percentage system. Assignment point totals will vary in their amounts at the discretion of the instructor depending on their importance. Assignments will come under the following categories and will be worth the indicated percentage of the student’s grade for the term

* Playing/Skills Assessment (30%)
* Participation and preparation (25%)
* Written Tests (15%)
* Classwork/Homework (20%)
* Term Project (10%)

Assignments will be assessed based on quality, completion, and thoroughness.

Students will also take a final exam, which will be worth 10% of the students’ overall grade.

Late assignments are only accepted for credit in the event of excused absences. For a specific definition of “excused absence,” please refer to the student handbook. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their assignments and turn them in on time. If you missed the assignment due to excused absence, you will be allotted two days from your return to complete and hand in the assignment.

***Attendance Policy***

Students are expected to be in class. Students are expected to arrive on time with all required materials each class period. Students who miss more than one half (1/2) of a class period will be marked as absent from that class period. Three (3) tardies without a pass will be counted as one absence. In the event of an unexcused tardy, a student’s participation grade for each class session will be reduced by one (1) point.

**Statement of Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is of utmost importance. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing in any way will receive a 0 for that assignment, receive a phone call home, and will additionally be sanctioned as outlined in the student handbook.

***Days available for extra help***

I am available for extra help most days, by appointment. Tuesdays and Thursdays, however, are preferred. Please talk to me before or after class to request extra help.

***Other pertinent information***

Parent contact: If parents have any questions or concerns about this course or your progress, the best way to get in contact with me is via email, which can be found on the

front page of this document.

***Final Note***

Playing a musical instrument is a process that takes time and patience, but is, in the end, incredibly rewarding. There will be days when you will feel frustrated, but with hard work and persistence, you will succeed. It takes time to feel comfortable with hand placement and independent hand movement, but don’t give up. This course is an introduction to a musical world that you will enjoy for many years to come.