

Guitar 1
Course Syllabus
Mr. Marsh (amarsh@staff.gtchs.org)
2024-2025

Description and Organization: This course is for a learning-focused group of students that are interested in becoming proficient at the guitar. Students of all abilities are welcome. The main goal of the course is to give students the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners and musicians. Many styles of playing and reading music are covered along with a foundation of music theory and history pertinent to the guitar.

Students will play every day as a class and in smaller task groups. New concepts are first introduced and demonstrated by the instructor and then mastered by the students. As GTCHS is a “mastery learning” school, students will be expected to become proficient in the concept at hand before moving on to the next concept. More advanced students can also introduce concepts that they have already learned. In addition to playing and discussion, classes will include lecture and paperwork on important musical topics including theory and history.

Course Objectives:

To teach students to teach themselves.

To encourage students to become lifetime learners and players.

To have students grow musically with their instrument.

To add music to the GTCHS community.

To cover the National Standards for Music Education:

- 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.*

Course Topics Include:

Guitar history, Guitar construction, Acoustics, Musical Genres, Sheet music, Tabs, Playing by ear, Rehearsal technique, Performance technique, Professional musicianship, Composition, Arranging, Music Technology, Music History, Music Theory.

Required Supplies: Students need to bring a **guitar to class every day**. If a student does not

have an instrument, they need to work with Mr. Marsh to find one quickly! Acoustic guitars are preferred, but students with electric guitars **must also** bring an amplifier. Students that leave their instruments at school must lock them up in a room or locker every day. Students also need a three-ring binder with a notebook or looseleaf paper and a writing utensil every day.

Grading: Grading will include daily participation, frequent playing tests, performance projects, and semester exams.

Daily participation and Classwork includes being ready for class on time as well as showing a good work ethic both during group learning and individual practice time.

Playing tests and Quizzes include playing tests that may be played privately or in front of the class. These tests show whether or not a student is mastering the concepts assigned. This category also includes written quizzes.

Projects are larger in scope than playing tests. They may include solos or small group pieces that have been worked on for multiple days, as well as presentations or written work.

Unit tests include important prepared performances and written tests.

Semester exams may be performance based and/or paper based.

Participation and Classwork - 20%

Smaller Playing Tests/Quizzes - 30%

Projects - 30%

Unit tests (written and playing) - 20%

Semester Exam - 10% per semester

Performances: All performances are mandatory, and they may count as semester exams.

Please make a note of the following dates:

Winter Concert & Art Show	December 10th	7pm Concert (6pm call)
Guitar, Chorus & Art Show	May 6th	7pm Concert (6pm call)

The May 4th concert is a mandatory performance for all guitar students. It is part of your **final exam**. The December concert is optional, but you are encouraged to come and cheer on your fellow students.

The dress code is all black, top and bottom and dress shoes. Stretch and yoga pants and T-shirts with logo's on them are not considered appropriate formal wear. If in doubt about the appropriateness of your outfit take a picture or bring it to class.

Grading for performances is as follows:

Punctuality and staying entire show 20%

Dress Code 20%

Music 20%

Stage Conduct 20%

Off stage conduct 20%

Mastery: GTCHS is a mastery school. This means that if your grade falls below an 80, it is **your responsibility** to attend office hours with me to bring your grade up. Fine Arts office hours are

on Wednesday, but you will find that I am very flexible and I am happy to work with you to find time on another day if needed. **You have to make the effort to talk to me about your grade concerns.**

Need extra help or time, regardless of grade?

I am at school almost every day until 3:45 or later. You are always welcome to arrange a time with me to work on your projects, either by yourself or with my assistance.

Communication: We will use Google Classroom for most of our class-related communication. Please check it daily for announcements and assignments.

Use this code to join now: hsxjeqm for 1B
 bbtuzrw for 3B

Band Room Rules

1. Have your instrument and music every day.
2. No talking while someone is leading the class.
3. Uplift others and treat them with respect.
4. No gum, food, or drink in the band room ever. (except water)
5. Cell phones and headphones should not be out or used during class (unless requested by the director).
6. Take care of your instrument and be respectful of other instruments in the room.
7. Treat all music spaces with respect.

I firmly believe that any issues that arise in class with these rules can be resolved between you and I. I will not involve your parents as long as our discussions result in a positive change.

As a music student you will be expected to perform outside of regular school hours. Our Spring Guitar Concert will be half of your final exam grade. Please put this date on your calendar and make sure your parents are aware of this as well.

Sign that you have read this and understand the importance of keeping the evening of May 6th free. (Parents, there is a December concert that is optional and you may want to note that date as well - Dec 10th)

Student: _____ date: _____

Parent: _____ date: _____