

Guitar/Ukulele Syllabus

Mt. Edgecumbe High School

Instructor: Heather Gluth
Room: AC
E-Mail: heatherg@mehs.us
Phone: 907-966-3293



Course Description

Guitar/Ukulele is designed to introduce students to the basics of playing the acoustic guitar and ukulele. We will cover the parts of the instrument, tuning, string names, basic music notation, chording, guitar history, performance evaluation, and music styles. While this class is designed for beginners, all skill levels are welcome as this class provides opportunity for individualized, goal-based plans.

Supply List

- ☐ Guitar, picks, and tuner (provided or you can bring your own)
- ☐ Ukulele, picks, and tuner (provided or you can bring your own)
- ☐ Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method 1 (provided)
- ☐ Capo (provided)
- ☐ Computer and/or other device that can access the internet
- ☐ Pencils & erasers

Grading—Grades are based on the published MEHS grading scale and will be weighted as follows:

Daily Participation and In-Class Work Ethic: 60%

This is the daily, in-class participation and it is the most important category for the final grade. All absences (except for medical appointments) must be made up in order to get daily participation credit. Each day's participation is based on a 5-point scale that uses the following criteria, one point for each criterion:

- On time to class and uses the first 10-15 minutes of class appropriately.
- Focus is on the teacher, participates in class discussion, and is not distracted by cell phone.
- Completes in-class activities.
- Does not distract from others' learning opportunities.
- Comes to class with required materials (computer/pencils/etc.)

Skills Checks–Music Theory and Performance Skills: 30%

At the beginning of each week, students will be given specific songs, exercises, and/or music theory concepts that will be assessed in a one-on-one student/teacher conference or via Google Forms on Fridays. The main purpose of these skills checks is to assess progress on the course materials and focus on and refine individual learning goals.

Performances, Goal Setting, & Personal Reflection: 10%

A common thread that weaves through the Alaska General Music Standards is the concept of performing music and evaluating the performance reflecting on the process of replicating written and recorded music. Students in this class may perform in public or make recordings that they can reflect on and use to set goals for future study.

Expectations

1. Be Respectful: Being respectful to yourself, others, and materials creates a learning space where we all feel valued and empowered to take risks. It is my #1 classroom expectation.
2. Be Responsible: We all are the most successful when we “show up” prepared. Come with your class materials, your best attitude, and a smile on your face. Communicate with me if you are having a hard day, and we will get through it together. It means the world to me!
3. Work Hard: Learning music or improving your current musical skill is challenging. It requires perseverance and diligence.

Procedures

1. Set Up: Students will set up the classroom upon arrival.
2. Clean Up: The last 3 minutes of class will be used for clean-up.
3. Classwork: Daily skill lessons, practice time, partner/group work, evaluation, etc.
4. Homework: Outside of class resources for learning songs will be utilized. Guitars and ukuleles can be checked out for overnight practice.

“Music is life. That’s why our hearts have beats.” ~ Cecily Morgan