

School Year:

2019 -2020

Name of Course:

Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced Guitar

Name of Teacher:

Mr. Morales

Teacher Contact Information:

Phone#-830-3128 ext. 0

Email address: jmorales@paparts.org or jammorales@hotmail.com

Welcome to PAPA Guitar Ensemble!! It is going to be a great year!! Please read over syllabus carefully; sign and return to Mr. Morales

Course Description:

This class will cover both the fundamentals of playing guitar along with general music theory, music history and ear training. The guitar courses are broken up into three levels; the first being beginning guitar, the second being intermediate and the third being advanced guitar. For more information on these classes please look below.

Beginning Guitar: This class is designed to help students who have had little or no experience on the guitar. This class will cover the basic fundamentals of guitar playing. The students will have a thorough understanding of reading both guitar tablature and standard notation. They will learn how to play and form basic chords and scales. They will also be expected to learn how to play in both an ensemble setting and on an individual basis. Lastly, this course will integrate basic theory concepts, composition and musical history.

Intermediate and Advanced Guitar: This class is designed with players who have had two or more years experience playing guitar. Since there are a large range of abilities in this class, there will be more focus on individual development and skills. The students may work on many solo pieces but are also expected to perform as an ensemble. These students will learn how to read both guitar tablature and standard notation. They will explore more complex chord and scale structures and develop an awareness of advanced theory concepts. They will develop an awareness and ability to perform multiple styles of music including classical, contemporary, and jazz. Their will also be a focus on learning how to utilize improvisational skills in different forms of music. On top of all this they will learn music history, composition and study the development of musical styles and genres.

Concepts and Corresponding NMPED Standards:

Standard 1: Learn and develop the essential skills and meet technical demands unique to dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts.

Standard 2: Use dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts to express ideas

Standard 3: Integrate understanding of visual and performing arts by seeking connections and parallels among arts disciplines as well as other content areas.

Standard 4: Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of the creative process.

Standard 5: Observe, discuss, analyze and make critical judgments about artistic works.

Standard 6: Show increased awareness of diverse peoples and cultures through visual and performing arts.

Standard 7: Demonstrate knowledge about how technology and invention have historically influenced artists and offered new possibilities for expression.

Standard 8: Contribute to communities by sharing expertise in dance, music, theatre/drama and visual arts and by participating in the activities of cultural institutions.

Assignments/Homework:

This class consists of daily homework which is practice time. In order to maintain high standards of learning, it is expected that all students practice at home. Students should practice enough to help strengthen their skills on their guitars, but not so long that it becomes a burden. A reasonable practice routine for beginners would be 15-20 minutes long. For advanced students, this time could be as much as an hour. Of course this depends on the individual student and appropriate practice times can be discussed with me. Practice is a regular routine that should be done along with all other coursework and studies. Each student will be expected to turn in a practice log every week to document that they have been practicing. We will be doing these logs through google classroom this year. This will be equivalent to homework assignments that are given out in any other class. We will also have frequent playing and written tests which students will be given plenty of notice to prepare for. Thirdly, all students are expected to create their own composition during the 2nd semester of class. This will be done with my assistance and will account for a large project grade. Lastly, there will be two large concert grades and final exams which will count as their final for each semester.

Grading Procedures:

The students will be graded in three different areas.

1. **Participation:** This includes: attendance, preparation, and behavior. This is the most essential part of the class and is necessary for all students to do well. All students will receive a weekly participation grade based on a 15 point system that will account for 70% of their 9 week grades.
2. **Assignments/ Tests:** This includes all assignments, quizzes and tests that are given throughout the grading period. Students will do weekly practice logs which account for homework and there will be at least 4 quizzes, tests in each grading period and many small assignments. This will account for about 30% of the students' 9 week grade.
3. **Composition:** This is only for the second semester and will be a large project grade that all students are expected to complete.
4. **Final/ Concert:** There will be two major concerts in the course of the school year, one in winter and one in the spring. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend both of these performances. These will count as the students' midterm and final grade which accounts for 20% of their overall grades.

Teaching Philosophy and Expectations:

All students will grow in their knowledge of the guitar and music in general, and will receive an appreciation for music and its history and impact on culture and society. It is expected that all students come to class prepared and ready to learn. All students will be assessed on their effort and not on their ability. I do not grade based on individual playing levels, but I do grade on a students' willingness to learn. If students are prepared, hardworking, and respectful, then all students will succeed in this class.

Classroom Rules and Consequences:

1. **Be prompt and prepared**
2. **Respect the teacher**
3. **Respect each other**
4. **No distractions during instruction time**

All class rules fall under these four rules.

In the event that a student is breaking the classroom rules, they will be given two verbal warnings. After the two verbal warnings, students will document their misbehavior. In the case that this happens, we will involve parents or administration depending on the severity of the situation and according to the disciplinary guidelines of the school.

Opportunities to Volunteer:

We as a guitar group can always use volunteers. Some events where we will need some parental help are the concerts. We will be holding our concerts at Valley High School PAC and we need volunteers who are willing to chaperone students when they are not on stage performing and transporting gear to and from. Another event is going to be our big annual fundraiser (more info to come) and we will need tons of help and volunteers to make this event happen. Thirdly, we have tons of performances planned around town throughout the year that will always need volunteers for. Lastly, parents are always welcome in the classroom and if you have talents and knowledge you would like to share, you are always welcome or if you would like to just stop by and see how we are doing. My classroom door is always open to parents and guardians.

A Little About Me:

Mr. Morales started playing music at 6 years old. Throughout elementary school he played in mariachi groups, band, piano, and bell choirs. By high school, Mr. Morales had already become an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and even begun teaching workshops at various mariachi conferences when he was 16. He also performed and recorded two albums when he was still in high school. Mr. Morales went on to study music performance at New Mexico Highlands University. He majored in guitar performance with an emphasis in music history and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2007. He then went on to receive his Master's degree in Music Performance in 2009 and received a second Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2011. While at Highlands University, he was drum major for the NMHU marching band, choral manager for the HU Singers Club, a regular in the schools drama club, as well as performing and gigging with numerous popular local bands. He began teaching in Las Vegas New Mexico where he spent two years working in marching band, guitar, choir and elementary music. He then moved to Albuquerque where he taught band for three years at Taft Middle School. This will be his 10th year teaching at PAPA, where he currently runs the guitar and piano programs. He also currently performs and writes with local Christian rock groups. Mr. Morales is married and has three daughters that are all learning music as well.

Please fill out this form and return back to Mr. Morales ASAP. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Parent Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Student Signature _____