

Guitar I Course Syllabus
Mr. Wendel, Room 423 or 116
Wendelsworld.weebly.com

Goal:

Welcome to Guitar I! Guitar is arguably the best instrument on planet earth. I hope you walk away from this class with a repertoire of songs, a basic understanding of music theory, a deep chord lexicon, and the tools to begin writing your own music. This course will cover fingerboard knowledge, basic techniques, chords, strumming, basic improvisation, basics of finger-style technique, reading music (standard notation/tablature), and basic concepts in music theory that can be used to read & write music and figure out songs by ear. Most of the music played in this class will be drawn from the American popular and folk styles. Through listening, this class will provide an overview of the many different styles of music written for this instrument including classical, jazz, blues, folk, rock and pop.

A Note on What Guitar Class *Isn't*

Keep in mind that this is not just a class for sitting around talking, joining a boyfriend/girlfriend, or picking at a few notes before the bell rings. Guitar is just too awesome not to take it a little more seriously. This class could change your life with a little hard work, heart, and practice.

Some things that ***will*** happen:

- Tuning up your guitar pitch-perfect every day at the start of class
- A short time of instruction as a large class on how to play
- Practicing with your designated guitar group and possibly a guitar mentor
- Note-taking on music theory
- A song journal/blog that you will be filling out.
- Time to watch videos online and play along
- Finding awesome songs that you want to learn and practicing those.
- Individual help from me
- Practice at home

Contact Information:

You may contact me at the following e-mail: [*jwendel@muhsd.org*](mailto:jwendel@muhsd.org)

How will I get really good at guitar?

Everything our class does will be posted online at wendelsworld.weebly.com under “Guitar”. We’ll use this every day in and out of class. If you’re absent you’ll know where to go. Practice, practice, practice! The class gives the basics, but you can go far beyond this if you are dedicated.

Materials:

Bring the following materials to class **every** day:

- a. An acoustic guitar, tuner, and picks
- b. ***Jerry Snyder’s Guitar School*** book. We’ll check these out from the library.
- c. **several** ballpoint pens: blue or black
- d. A cheap folder that you can keep all of your notes and handouts in.
- e. your laptop and ear buds for watching tutorials, songs, and getting *lots* of practice as you play.

Assignment Types and Weighting

- 1. Guitar Quizzes and Tests 40%** – Every week you will get a written study guide that you will be studying, as well as tutorials on what you must do on the guitar; quizzes will be described as “written” or “on guitar”. At various times in the week, I’ll be meeting with you to see how you have progressed. **You can retake a quiz or test at any time in the course to raise your score!** Some students will struggle greatly at the beginning, so you might end up taking quizzes over with me. That’s a good thing.
- 2. Study Guides 30%** - This is mostly so you can identify the features of musical notation. You’ll need to take notes from the book on definitions, symbols, etc.
- 3. Song Journal 20%** - One of the greatest ways to learn on the guitar is to learn songs. In this class, you’ll have basic exercises and classic songs that you’ll be learning, but I also want you to learn stuff that inspires you! Every day, you’ll have time to work on playing challenging or exciting tunes. For every study guide you turn in, you’ll also have reflections on learning songs. You can submit these in the form of a one page hand-written journal. You can also substitute a song you wrote with lyrics, a blog post, or even a recorded track using the guitar and an app like “soundtrap.”
- 4. Chord Journal 10%**
You will also keep a chord journal for all the new forms on the fretboard you learn. This will take the form of TAB, guitar frames, as well as notes on the musical staff. Don’t worry, I will provide you with and understanding of these things. You’ll present this to me at the end of each semester.

Advanced Students

I will be making several suggestions for you if you are an advanced student in guitar. You may choose one of these alternate assignments for your guitar test, but you must still take notes for the written portion of tests.

Absences

Make sure to go to the website and do the things there. *Everything* is on the site.

Tardies:

When the bell rings, you must be **in your assigned seat and quiet**. If you are anywhere but in your seat, you will be considered tardy. Please see page 15 of the agenda for the school wide policy. If you come to class unprepared, you will be required to get the needed materials from your locker and will receive a tardy.

Gum Chewing and Eating in the Classroom:

In order to keep our school clean, gum chewing and eating in the classroom are not permitted. I expect you to cooperate fully with this rule. Violations will result in lunch duty or detention.

Classroom rules will be enforced according to the school wide discipline plan from your agenda.

Grades:

All scores are available on AERIES after the work is graded and recorded. Please sign up to view student progress.

Quarter grades are progress reports and are not recorded on the permanent transcript.

A = 90%, B = 80 %, C = 70%, D = 60%. F = 0 to 59%.

I look forward to helping you rock out in Guitar 1!

Mr. Wendel