

# SCMS 2024-2025 Guitar 1 Syllabus

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## COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in guitar performance, including chord symbols, interpretation of tablature, and standard music reading and notation.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS/FEEES

1. Guitars: we have a set of school owned guitars which are used within class. If you are interested in purchasing one, Nylon stringed classical/acoustic guitars, such as the Yamaha CG40, are preferred and recommended for this class for practice at home.

~~The guitar class fee is \$20.00.~~ **THIS YEAR THERE IS NO FEE FOR GUITAR.** (The fee pays for the required texts listed below that we will be using in class. It also covers any strings that get broken and a few picks throughout the year.) \*\*\*The course fee is significantly lower this year (7<sup>th</sup> year in a row!) due to a non-recurring allocation of funds given to us by Superintendent Rocky Hanna! We are very thankful for his performing arts-g geared focus in Leon County Schools. The money Mr. Hanna has given to Performing Arts programs will help cover payment the of strings, picks, and restringing. \*\*\*

~~I have purchased the texts in bulk and they can be purchased from me in class. \$20 cash or checks can be made out to SCMS. Please contact Mrs. Curry with any questions or concerns.~~ Students have the option of purchasing their own book as well to keep at home, and I do also have some older used ones they may borrow! 😊 The books we use in class are:

H.O.T. Hands on Training First Year Guitar with CD by Nancy Lee Marsters  
Essential Elements for Guitar Book 1 by Will Schmid and Bob Morris

2. Pocket folder / designated spot in student's binder for guitar handouts
3. Apps used for this course:

The following apps will be utilized as reminders on a regular basis to enhance the communication process and help remind you of important dates & events throughout the school year: Remind 101 ..... codes listed on Canvas guitar page!

## PERFORMANCES & UNIFORMS (Possible, but not likely)

Depending on individual and class progress, we may schedule a guitar showcase for the school year. It will be in the spring and the date will be announced eventually.

\*There may be a possibility of additional performances around the community in the spring. Parents/guardians will be notified well in advance of any additions or cancellations of performances.

Students will be asked to wear nice dress clothes for their performances. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

## Class/Rehearsal Rules and Procedures

In addition to the Leon County Schools Code of Conduct and ALL school rules, there are specific music classroom expectations for participation in all music classes.

All students need to adhere to the following rules:

1. Be respectful of others. Students need to make good choices in their everyday behavior in class. Students are expected to be supportive of each other and work together as a team.
2. Raise your hand before speaking and remain seated. Student questions and comments are a vital part of the class, but cannot be heard if everyone speaks at once. Raise your hand and wait until your name is called before speaking. Student socializing needs to take place outside of rehearsal. **Students need to remain seated and ask for permission to get out of their chair for any reason.**
3. Be respectful of equipment. Students need to make sure that their instrument is placed in their class storage room at the end of each class and that they have picked up all belongings before leaving. Students must NEVER touch any equipment without permission from the director. Do not touch any equipment that does not belong to you.
4. No food is allowed in the chorus/guitar room. Students may have a bottle of water in class, but may not bring any type of food, gum, candy, or drinks into our space.
5. Be on time and prepared for class. Students will enter the classroom quietly and be ready with their instrument, music and/or method book, music stand, and pencil.

Students will enter the class room and will have a few minutes to take out required materials for class, have a seat, and start their warmup/task for the day. Two minutes after the bell rings, any student that is not seated will be marked tardy. Students will be able to ask questions after announcements and should follow directions and remain on task during class. At the end of class, students will be dismissed by Mrs. Curry and will have time to pack up their belongings and return to their seats before the bell rings.

Students will be given one verbal warning during class. After that, we will follow the school's WOLF behavior plan as listed below. The following consequences are in effect if a student does not follow directions:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Verbal **W**arning  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: **O**ther: Parent Contact (email and/or phone call)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: **L**unch Detention  
4<sup>th</sup> Offense: **F**ront office; possible Discipline Referral

\*\*\* Students will not receive a warning for the following:

1. Disrespect
2. Eating, Drinking, or Chewing gum in the chorus room without special permission
3. Leaving instruments and materials out in the chorus room
4. Not bringing all materials to class

\*IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES SUCH AS FIGHTING.\*

## Grading and Assessment

### **Daily Participation – 50%**

Daily grade – 10 points (listed in FOCUS gradebook weekly)

Students will get a total of 10 daily participation points for being in class with their needed supplies (instrument/supplies, agenda book, method book/music, pencil and papers) AND **actively** participating in class. Receiving a full amount of points each day includes, but is not limited to music stands with guitar books out and ready in assigned seat, playing at appropriate times, posture, no gum, participation/engagement, and following directions, etc.

### **Performance Assessments – 50%**

Playing Checkups and Tests – 75-100 points

Students will have playing checkups and tests on scales and music covered in class on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. If the student is not happy with the first score, the playing checkup can be retaken before or after school within 3 days of the original assessment. The highest score (of the two opportunities to take the test) will be recorded as the final score for that checkup.

Written Quizzes, Other – 25-50 points

Students will receive paperwork throughout the school year, some of which will be required to turn in.

### **Extra Credit**

Students may complete additional community involvement activities for 5 points of extra credit that will count towards the daily performance portion of the grade.

### **Grading Scale**

(Grades are rounded to the nearest whole number)

A= 100-90      B= 89-80      C= 79-70      D= 69-60      F= 59 and below

### **ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT POLICY**

Students are expected to receive a “C” or better on tests, assessments, and projects.

- Students are given an opportunity to redo/revise assessments where their score is below 70%. This may include tests, major assessments, and classroom projects. No redo/revision on quizzes, History Fair, Science Fair, and final or end of course exams will be allowed.
- Teachers have discretion on all opportunities.
- Students will receive an “Academic Opportunity for Improvement Form,” choose two methods/actions on the form to complete, and return the signed form to teacher.
- Students are allowed one “redo” per test, assessment, or project.
- Students will receive the higher of the two scores, but the final grade cannot exceed a 70%.

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### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

*“The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information.”*