

Introduction to Guitar For Songwriters

Syllabus

Mr. Forest Newark, Instructor, Room 401

forest.newark@dpsnc.net

Class Description:

The *Introduction to Guitar for Songwriters* class is designed to give students an introduction to the basics of playing the guitar. Students will explore various musical styles as they develop the technique to perform on guitar. Students will also learn how to play and be successful in a large musical ensemble.

Grading Policy

All missing assignments must be made up within one week of the assignment due date unless an extension has been requested and granted.

Classroom Performance - **45%**

- Students have all materials ready at appropriate time for use in class
- Students are working on assigned materials during class time
- Students demonstrate proper playing technique during class
- Students are contributing to positive classroom environment

Performance Grades/Skills Assessments - **40%**

- Students perform assigned repertoire alone and in groups to demonstrate instrument proficiency
- Students will complete playing test after they have been given a rubric and time to practice individually

Written Assignments/Test/Quizzes - **15%**

- Students will complete and turn in all written assignments
- Students will take small test and quizzes to evaluate their musical knowledge

Reassessments

All students will have the opportunity to retake a playing assessment up to one week after the initial playing test. This must be scheduled with Mr. Newark.

Reassessments are highly encouraged and students who did not perform their best should take advantage of the opportunity to replay for a grade.

Student Expectations

1. Come Prepared - This includes having all required material with you as we begin the day.
2. Instrument Care - Students should always demonstrate proper instrument care (as demonstrated in class). All students should take care of their guitar as well as making sure other guitars are being handled correctly.
3. Follow all instructions - Make sure you listening to and reading any instructions given by Mr. Newark
4. Positive Attitude - All students are expected to be positive and supportive of classmates as they learn to play an instrument.

Instrument Fee

Guitars are provided for each student, however, an instrument use fee is collected to provide each students with new guitar strings, guitar accessories (picks) and cover instrument damage. Please see the attached form for more information.

Practice

Practice is the most important thing for improvement on any instruments. However, students will not be allowed to take school owned instruments home for practice. It is highly encouraged, but not required, for students to have access to an instrument at home. Students will be given ample class time for practice. **Upon request**, students will have access to instruments before or after school for individual practice.

While it is not required, having a guitar is the best way for a student to develop the lifelong skill of playing guitar. If you are interested in purchasing a guitar for your student please email Mr.Newark for more information.

Restroom

I will have one hall pass, which you can use to go to the restroom. You are not allowed to go during lecture or instruction time. Please ask before excusing yourself to the restroom. When possible use the restroom quickly during class change time.

Drinks/Food

In the classroom you are only allowed to have a bottle of water to drink. In the studio there is no food or drink of any kind allowed.

Habits of Mind and the Four C's

These are the guiding ideas behind the School for Creative studies and they will be addressed and explained throughout the school year.