

Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School

Guitar Department

2022-2023 Handbook

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Meyerland PVA Guitar

It would be difficult to overstate the influence the guitar has had on our entire world and certainly pop culture. From the middle of the 20th century to the 21st century, the guitar has demonstrated its versatility, expressiveness, and appeal. The guitar's blend of general affordability and playability has made the instrument a common staple among households worldwide.

In the guitar program at Meyerland PVA, we emphasize access to various styles, including Classical, Jazz, Blues, Mariachi, and Rock. Regardless of style, we focus on guitar fundamentals, technique, reading notation, rhythmic accompaniment, solo performance, and ensemble participation. Our program is progressive and supports students' various levels of accomplishment. Through a yearly audition process, students enter the program and continue through the described course according to their current level.

Beginner Level Guitar

This course prioritizes a 21st century curriculum that is classically based. Students focus on tone production, ensemble participation, and fingerstyle techniques. Through performing together as an ensemble, students will learn to read music.

Intermediate Level Guitar

Students at the intermediate level continue their exploration of the instrument and build on the foundations gained at the beginner level. At the intermediate level, students develop a deeper understanding of musicianship and its relationship to cultivating excellence in guitar performance. Through ensemble performance, students build their knowledge of the fingerboard and its relationship to melody and harmony.

Advanced Level Guitar

Students at the advance level will learn to play ensemble music that is increasingly more expressive, dynamic, and rhythmically complex. Students will begin serious pursuit of classical solo guitar works, as well as survey other popular styles such as Jazz, Blues, and Rock. Through teaching a survey of diverse styles students will gain the knowledge to relate classical technique and ensemble performance to any other style of guitar music. Our advanced level guitar program provides students with the skills and preparation to enter competitive High School music programs, as well as the knowledge to advance in guitar beyond the scope of this program.

Dress Code

Concert attire- Black slacks/ pants, black shoes or very nice very clean black tennis shoes, black collar shirt. Skirts should not be worn as they make sitting in proper guitar position difficult or impossible affecting the sound of the instrument and can be distracting to the performer.

Nails- Should be kept neat and clipped---**no long nails, acrylic nails, or nail art is acceptable in the guitar classroom, as it prevents a student from playing guitar with correct technique. Students wearing acrylic nails will not be permitted to play guitar in class until the nails are removed.** The student will be given an alternative assignment but will have a letter grade deducted for the assignment. Situations where a student continues to arrive in class with acrylic nails will experience consequences for not following rules and procedures.

Grading Policy

GRADING POLICY

- **Classwork (Participation/Performance) 45%**
- **Practice (Preparedness/Projects/Test) 35%**
- **Notebook/Quizzes 20%**

Classwork/Participation- This is an **active** performing arts class. Students are expected to learn and master technique, play and practice guitar, and participate in every class. A daily participation grade will be given based on a Guitar Rubric. Students may only be excused from participation if they have a doctor's note. If the student is under doctor's restrictions for a long period of time an appropriate assignment will be given. If excused, when a student does not participate, they will have a written assignment to complete, take detailed well-written class notes, and they will be responsible to make up the skills worked on that day. Points may be deducted from participation grade if the quality of work on the classroom assignment is not appropriate or a student is asked to sit out for lack of participation or guitar class etiquette.

Practice/Preparedness- It is the expectation of the class that all students arrive to class prepared. Guitar class is not a place for students to practice on their own. Guitar class is a place where our ensemble works as a class to learn new skills, and practice performing as an ensemble. Music and assignments that have already been handed out are expected to be ready for rehearsal. This means students must incorporate a regiment of daily home practice. Students who do not own a classical nylon string guitar of their own will have an opportunity to rent a guitar from the school. I also have a guitar buying guide available for parents/students who wish to purchase their own instrument.

- ***Attendance-*** Daily attendance is very important. If a student even misses one day, he/she will fall behind in the class. It will be the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work, assignments, or tests as it regards to school guidelines.
- ***Promptness-*** **Students are to be in the guitar studio before the tardy bell rings.** After the bell rings, they have five minutes to secure their personal belongings, sit in their assigned seat, begin to tune their assigned guitar, and begin the days warmup.
- ***Restroom policy -***Students are to use the restroom before and after class, so as not to interrupt the learning and creative process.
Leaving class to use restroom will be permitted sparingly and/or on an emergency basis only.

Classroom Notebook/aka Binder-

Students will be assigned a classroom binder. It is an expectation that all students are in possession of their classroom binder every class. The student will keep all music and assignment handouts in their binder in an orderly manner. Instructions will be given in class directing students on the proper order and care of the classroom binder. There will be a quick binder check every six weeks. Students will be graded on how well they are meeting expectations with the organization of their binder.

Performances-

This is a performance class. Performance is part of the curriculum and class experience. Winter, Spring, and/or Showcase Performances are **MANDATORY**. Missed rehearsals and/or performances will be reflected strongly in their grade for the grading period. Only on rare occasions will I accept any excuse to miss a performance. The excuse must be attained before the performance. If an excuse is accepted an assignment will be substituted for the performance and will be due one week **BEFORE** the performance. Sports events, church events, other non-magnet events are not a legitimate excuse. Only medical excuses accompanied with a doctors note will be considered. As a magnet student your child is obligated to participate in required

concerts

Assessment-

Tests and projects will cover curriculum skills and terminology taught from class lessons. Performance, written, and skills test will be used to monitor student's progress. There will be an announced formal assessment every grading period except for when there is a performance. In this case, students will receive a performance grade in place of the assessment grade.

Student Conduct-

All students will be expected to follow the rules of the school as well as those for guitar class etiquette.

Guitar Class Rules-

It is the expectation that students are respectful to the guitar room, equipment, and their fellow ensemble participants. All students will be assigned guitars and are responsible for reporting any new damage done to the instrument. Students found responsible for damaging a class guitar will be asked to pay for the guitar (\$150) and receive a referral for damaging school property. There is no food, drinks, gum, or candy allowed in the guitar classroom. Students found breaking any classroom or school wide rules will face the appropriate consequences.

- ***Be** on time
- ***Be** prepared
- ***Be** courteous and respectful
- ***Participate**
- ***Practice and Perfect**
- ***No** food, drinks, gum or candy
- ***No CELLPHONES!!!!**

Consequences of not following rules/procedures:

1st offense- Student conference and parent contact

2nd offense- Parent contact, Student conference, and a ½ Conduct cut

3rd offense- Parent contact, Discipline referral, Behavior Contract, and an S in conduct

4th offense-Administrative referral, P/U in conduct, and Magnet Growth Plan

****Students made aware of poor behavior and choose to not adjust their behavior appropriately during that class period will receive a referral for not following simple instructions.**

Guitar Magnet Program Cost-

MPVA guitar Students pay a Magnet Program cost of \$50.00 at the beginning of the school year. This covers the cost of an MPVA guitar t-shirt, a classroom binder for lessons and repertoire, printed repertoire, instrument maintenance and upkeep, and department performance and event costs.

Magnet Program costs should be paid by September 10th in full, or in installment payments if necessary, by October 1st, and can be paid online via **SchoolPay** (credit/debit card).

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

How long to practice?

- 1. For Beginners, 15 to 30 minutes each day should be sufficient ~**
- 2. For Intermediate and Advanced students, 30 to 45 minutes is sufficient~**
- 3. Have a set schedule each day for practicing ~,**
- 4. Use your time wisely. It is better to have a good 10 minutes practice than to doodle for half an hour.**
- 5. Practice must be regular. A little each day is better than a great amount at once.**
- 6. If your mind is not on what you are doing, your practice time will be a waste of time.**

How to practice?

- 1. Make sure that you are not disrupted during the practice time. Also, make sure that you are not tired or hungry when practicing.**
- 2. Practice exactly what you are supposed to practice. Practicing what you already know does not help you as much as practicing on your weaknesses.**
- 3. Practice carefully in a slow, steady time. Gradually increase the speed until you have reached the correct tempo.**
- 4. Always use the correct fingering. It is better not to start out with any bad habits.**
- 5. Divide your practice times. Give the most time to the things that need the most work.**
- 6. Make sure that at the end of each practice period you can play something perfectly, even if it is only a few measures of a piece.**
- 7. Do not be discouraged if you seem to make little progress at first, improvement often comes very slowly. You may practice something for days, and then suddenly one day you find that you can play it perfectly.**

Subject to Change

*Please note, all content is possible as subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to the students, parents and/or any other supporting participants of the guitar program. {2022 - 2023}

REQUIRED: Please follow the QR code link below to acknowledge you've read the 2022-23 Guitar Manual and take a short and necessary survey.

This is a required assignment for your child and counts as a test grade.
Due Date: 9/02/22

<https://forms.gle/515MmeMesGnKMRJG9>



Video, Audio, and Photo Release

The guitar ensembles are regularly video recorded and or photographed during performances and rehearsals. They may appear in various ways such as the following: Television (video), Radio (audio), School website, school sanctioned social media or in the Newspaper.