

# Intro to Guitar

Mr. Jones

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*Portions of this syllabus may change as the need arises. You will be notified in writing or by system email when changes occur.*

## Course Description:

The purpose of this course is the study of guitar. During the year you will learn the basics of guitar, how to read music, and to play several different types of chords. This will be accomplished through both solo and group performance. Upper level students will act as guides and student leaders working alongside lower level students in tandem with the instructor.

Twice a year (once a semester) the guitar classes may perform as part of the Music Department's Winter and Spring Concerts (Dates TBA, usually December and May ). The required attire for these performances are a Black Button up Dress Shirt (guys) or black Blouse (Girls) and black dress pants or slacks (No Jeans). Ladies have the option of a black skirt that is below knee length. These performances are mandatory and are equivalent to a Semester Exam Grade. **There may be up to 2 In-class performances each semester.** The types of performances will be discussed in advance as the need arises.

You will need to bring your guitar to class starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school. Because of the number of guitars in the class, there will be no Amps (due to noise level and power issues.) The only exception to this rule is on performance days. There is one storage room provided for guitar on class days only. Guitars should not be stored in the Band Room or the Instrumental Locker Room. Guitars should be taken home after school and on weekends as these rooms have other uses during these times.

The Website apps Breezin' Thru Theory and Fender.com may be used for supplemental instruction as needed.

## Materials student needs:

Acoustic Guitar

3 ring binder (for all handouts)

Plectrum/Pick- as needed

Extra replacements strings- these are not provided.

**Grading Scale:**

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
50- 0	Lets hope we don't need it.

**Grade calculation:**

Playing/written Tests	35%
In- Class & Semester Performances	55%
Participation	10%

**Playing Tests:** These tests will be done on a one-on-one basis which will consist of playing selected scales and/or piece from your repertoire. Playing tests will be scheduled in advance, usually once each week or once every 2 weeks.

**Written Tests:** Written tests will cover basic theory and technical fundamentals. At least 1 written test will be given each nine weeks. More are possible depending on the content covered.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are playing tests that will consist of a single/multiple scale(s) or a prepared piece. Quizzes can happen at least once a week.

**Participation:** Participation will be award for being in class, partaking in class discussions, practicing during allotted practice times, and general class participation. If you are not in class, you cannot receive the participation points. You must be physically in class for at least 75% of the class time to receive the participation points.

**General Classroom Stuff:**

**Be On Time:** you should be in your seat with your instrument out and setup, ready to play by the tardy bell. Each minute of rehearsal time is precious and should not be wasted. Check the board each day for specific instructions.

**Guitars and Storage:** It is recommended, due to the storage situation, that each student get a hard shell case to protect their guitars. FHS is not responsible for damaged equipment while stored in the Storage areas. Each case should have the students name on it (as many cases are identical). Soft cases and AMPs are not to be stored in the Guitar Storage room due to safety and liability concerns.

**Leaving the room:** Bathrooms are located in the hallway. You will need to sign out when using the restroom. No more than one student will be allowed to the bathroom at a time.

**Writing Utensils:** the only accepted writing utensil in a band/music class is a **pencil**. When marking your music it should be light and erasable. In some cases, many students will have to use the same music you are using down the road so be respectful to them. It also helps that if you make a mistake, you can erase it. No pens, markers, or erasable pens, please.

If you have any questions regarding the grading or classroom policies, please don't hesitate to ask.