

**Dorothy McElhinney Middle School
Beginning Guitar**

Course Title: Beginning Guitar	Teacher Name: Ms. Taylor
Main communication for parents: Aeries communication	Teacher email: rtaylor@murrieta.k12.ca.us
Haiku/website used: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Teacher phone: 951-304-1885 EXT 3503

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES:

Students will demonstrate the ability to read and play music using a guitar. Students will learn to read tablature, music notation, and have a basic understanding of chord structures, rhythm, strumming and plucking techniques, and how to play melodies. Students will also learn to collaborate with other musicians. No outside class time will be required.

MATERIALS

- Guitar pick (bring your own if possible)
- Guitar (provided at school)
- Guitar book (provided at school)
- Pencil for taking notes in your music book

GRADING SCALE

Plus or minus grades will be given: YES NO

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

GRADE CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS:

Category	Weight
Individual pass offs	50%
Group pass offs	20%
Performing one-on-one	10%
In-class activities	20%

What's a Pass off? What performing?! In class activities?!

In class, we will always learn new concepts together – everyone strumming or plucking at the same time. After we learn the in-class concept, you are assigned a **pass off**. This pass off is an **in class assignment** from your Guitar book. After going over the assignment together, you will be given **individual time** to practice it. When you are ready to show me you completed your

Dorothy McElhinney Middle School

Beginning Guitar

pass off, you will **show me** by playing it while I am listening to you. If you are successful, I will mark your pass off as **complete**.

Your pass off will never be graded (A B C D F). Instead, you will practice the pass off until you can play it without stopping and with good technique. This means that if you have a pass off you are struggling with, you can practice it for as long as you need until you are ready. **Please note – it is up to YOU to complete your pass offs. Do not put them off if you want to have a relaxing end of semester!** If you get them done in a relatively timely manner, you will have more fun.

Pass offs are NEVER homework! Pass offs are **your responsibility**. Optimally, you will complete **one pass off per class**. Harder pass offs may take more time, which is expected and understood.

- ✚ **Individual pass offs** will be the bulk of your classwork. This is when you are practicing a guitar piece alone. During pass off practice time, you can always ask for assistance from Ms Taylor and she will give you tips and feedback.
- ✚ **Group pass offs** happen less often, but are weighted more heavily in your grade. This is when you play with either one or two other people! Groups will be created by the **instructor**. Remember that group pass offs are still practiced **in class only!** This group work teaches you how to **collaborate with other musicians**.
- ✚ **Individual performances** will happen twice during the semester. You perform a piece for Ms. Taylor one-on-one in a quiet environment. These assignments will be longer pieces that may take more work than an average pass off, and you will be given ample time to perfect it. As a student, you will be able to pick which specific dates you want your performance to be.
- ✚ **in class activities** are miscellaneous music focused worksheets, lessons, and practices to make you a better musician. They will happen whenever we are learning a new concept. As everything we do in class *is* done during school, being absent may make it more difficult to succeed in this class. Do your best to be at class every day!

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to follow the DMMS Student Handbook.

All students will be kind to the environment and each other. This includes:

1. Respecting the materials you need for the class. Students that abuse guitars, guitar books, or picks will no longer be able to play for a designated amount of time.
2. Only touch and use what is yours. Ask permission before touching another student's music, books, backpack, etc.

Dorothy McElhinney Middle School

Beginning Guitar

- 3. If a conflict arises, I will promote reconciliation between students. All students will treat each other with respect. Bullying is NOT tolerated within the classroom.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, copying from other sources (online courses, any internet site), homework, turning in work done by parents, projects, tests, notes, using notes without permission, forging, altering or duplication school or teacher documents or signatures, plagiarism ad text messaging regarding test data or information. **PLAGIARISM IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

Haiku/ABI use statement per teacher

Grades will be available on Aeries at all times.
No Haiku at this time.

Signature clause for parents

- o **We have read the syllabus information and understand all it entails. Please return signature clause to Ms. Taylor by August 20th or 21st.**

Parent or Guardian Signature (Date)

Student Signature (Date)