Rigby Middle School

***Beginning Acoustic Guitar***

Teacher: Mrs. Jenna Rasmussen Email: [jrasmussen@sd251.org](mailto:jrasmussen@sd251.org)

Website: rigbymiddlechoir.weebly.com

**Course Objective:**

To help students be competent musicians while gaining an understanding of guitar technique and performance. This requires that students understand and apply basic fundamentals of music theory and aural skills in class activities and performance and demonstrate functional proficiency in playing the guitar. Learning an instrument is not easy, and requires time and dedication.

**Grading**

Letter grades will be given according to the following criteria:

A 94-100 B- 80-82.9 Practice Log: 12 pts each

A- 90-93.9 C+ 77-79.9 Playing Tests: 40 pts each

B+ 87-89.9 C 73-76.9 Theory Quizzes: 40 pts each

B 83-86.9 C- 70-72.9 Daily Participation: 10 pts a day

Theory Quizzes:

* An in-class quiz will be given for each unit covered in class and will be turned in for credit.

Playing Tests:

* Throughout the trimester students will be expected to perform technical skills as they are acquired through the course, in addition to traditional written assessments. This will involve performing selections on the guitar and completing theory work.
* The students will have opportunities to work in groups where they will practice and perform a selection in front of the class together. At the end of the trimester the students will have to choose a piece that they will perform in front of the class.

Daily Participation:

* Ten points are awarded on a daily basis for attendance, punctuality, citizenship, and *participation* in class activities. Points for *excused* absences and illnesses may be made up by making individual arrangements with Mrs. Rasmussen.
* Students who forget to bring in their guitar will only be able to receive half of their daily participation points by filling out a rehearsal detective worksheet in class, unless an alternative assignment is discussed with Mrs. Rasmussen.

Practice Logs:

* Every week students will turn in a practice log with information about what they practiced and for how long.
* Students will be required to practice a minimum of 6 days a week for at least 30 min each day.
* Parents will sign the practice log to verify the student’s practice time.

Textbook

* Each student has the option to purchase or procure a copy of the ***Essential Elements for Guitar* Book 1**for use in class. This book can be found online from $10-$15. These books should also be available at Chesbro in Idaho Falls.
* It is highly recommended that each student have their own copy for making notes and practicing purposes.

Supplies

* Students are responsible to bring their own paper and pencils. Since we will be doing theory as part of the course, it is recommended that pencils with erasers are used. Sloppy work, such as pen scribbles, will not be graded if illegible.
* Each student will need to bring their own acoustic guitar to class as rentals are not available from the school. Students may borrow one from a friend or family member. Students can rent a guitar from Piano Gallery in Idaho Falls, or purchase one from Mike’s Music or Chesbro in Idaho Falls or Rexburg. A classic guitar has **nylon strings**, and an acoustic guitar has **steel strings**. Either guitar will be acceptable, and they will have sore finger tips. An electric guitar will **not** be acceptable in class.
* **Students are expected to have a guitar, a pick, and a pencil every day**. Mrs. Rasmussen will have picks for a quarter each. It is also suggested that each student buy a tuner, so we can tune quickly at the beginning of each class. Although Mrs. Rasmussen has five tuners for students to use in class.

Late Work

* “Make-up lessons and assignments are allowed for all *excused* absences. Students are granted the number of days missed plus one (1) day to turn in make-up work” for full credit.
* Though late work will be accepted, 20% of the total points possible will be deducted per day after the deadline.

Eligibility & Conduct

* *Only water* is allowed in the choir/orchestra room or on stage, and all other beverages and food are prohibited (**NO SODA**). Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

Conflict Resolution

* Failure to abide by the rules will result in loss of participation points. Should disruptive patterns of behavior continue (which none of you will do, I’m sure), the student will have a conference with Mrs. Rasmussen outside of class. Further disruptions will prompt a conference with the student, parent(s), administration and Mrs. Rasmussen to discuss the appropriate course of action.
* I’m here to help in any way that I can. Should you wish to discuss anything, contact me by phone at the school or by e-mail.

Electronics

* Any electronics used inappropriately will be taken away.

Citizenship Grade

* Students will receive a citizenship grade for student behavior every week.
* Satisfactory: turns in assignments on time, on task, arrives on time prepared for class, models good behavior, and shows respect to teachers, students, and others’ property.
* Unsatisfactory: does not turn in assignments on time, off task, arrives late to class, behavior detracts from learning, does not follow classroom rules, and disrespects teachers, students, and others’ property.

***A rough outline of what we will be covering over the trimester.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week 1 | Expectations, Pre-test, Parts of the guitar, and Music basics |
| Week 2 | Parts of the guitar, Music basics, How to hold a guitar, and How to tune |
| Week 3 | Chords and strumming, and Guitar parts Quiz |
| Week 4 | Chords and strumming, and C & G7 playing test |
| Week 5 | Notes on 1st (E) and 2nd (B) string, Mary Had a Little Lamb |
| Week 6 | Notes on 1st (E) and 2nd (B) string, Mary Had a Little Lamb Playing Test |
| Week 7 | Notes on 3rd (G) and 4th (D) string, Ode to Joy, Rockin Robin, Yankee Doodle |
| Week 8 | Notes on 5th (A) and 6th (E) string, Ode to Joy Playing Test |
| Week 9 | Au Clair de la Lune, new strumming patterns |
| Week 10 | Tablature, Au Clair de la Lune Playing Test |
| Week 11 | Guitar Ensembles |
| Week 12 | Post-test, Final Playing Test |

***This is what the Practice Log will look like.***

Guitar Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You are required to practice 30 minutes a day, 6 days a week. Practicing every day is going to give you better results than just one day a week.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week of  \_\_/\_\_ | I practiced… | Practice time | Parent Signature |
| Day  1 |  | Min. |  |
| Day  2 |  | Min. |  |
| Day  3 |  | Min. |  |
| Day  4 |  | Min. |  |
| Day  5 |  | Min. |  |
| Day  6 |  | Min. |  |

*Please sign the accompanying slip and return it to Mrs. Rasmussen by: The end of the 2nd week of the trimester.*

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I have read and understood the *Beginning Acoustic Guitar* class syllabus and understand the classroom guidelines, grading policies, and what is expected of me as a student.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date