

Stratford Middle School Guitar 8 Syllabus 2021-22

Mrs. Elizabeth Dahlby

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Supply List:	Folder, pencil, eraser, 3 ring/1½” binder, hand-outs, guitar book, pick, & guitar (provided), assignment notebook
Course Description:	This course is designed to provide 8 th grade students, with little or no experience, the opportunity to discover the art of guitar playing. The purpose of this class is to introduce and/or strengthen music fundamentals while mastering basic guitar playing skills. It is anticipated that students will apply what they learn in this class & continue further study either independently, as part of a class, or with a private instructor.
Course Structure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This semester-long course meets every day for a period of 45 minutes. We will begin promptly after the bell rings starting with attendance. • Course content includes review of music fundamentals, use of a lesson book, weekly practice record, and practice/performance on guitar, alone and in groups. Students may also study supplementary pieces.
Learning Outcomes: Based on Wisconsin’s Academic Standards for Music	I can (and I am working toward): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow classroom set-up and rehearsal procedures. • Differentiate between different types of guitars. • Demonstrate proper posture when playing the guitar. • Sing along to songs I play on the guitar (Standard A.8.1) • Memorize scales and rudimentary exercises. (Standard B.4.4) • Play my part on the guitar while other students sing or play contrasting parts. (Standard B.4.6) • Improvise simple harmonic accompaniments. (Standard C.8.1) • Compose short pieces of music within specific guidelines using a variety of sources including electronic media. (Standards D.8.1 & D.8.3) • Read & perform basic musical notation. (Standard E.8.1) • Identify the three (3) basic styles of guitar music notation. (Standard E.8.3) • Demonstrate proper picking and finger technique. • Learn and play exercises/songs from lesson book and other handouts. • Recognize & play various standard guitar chords. • Read a chord chart. • Identify and analyze musical elements (i.e. melody, harmony, rhythm) via listening activities. (Standard F.8.1) • Evaluate music performances using music terminology. (Standard G.8.2) • Describe how other school disciplines relate to those of music. (Standard H.8.3)
Classroom Policies:	<p>Passes – Only two (2) bathroom passes are allowed during the hour. Passes for other reasons (lunch money, phone calls, etc...) are <u>not allowed</u> during class time. Please address your personal needs between classes. Students must always ask before leaving the room, <u>must provide student pass book</u> for signing and <u>sign out in the record book.</u></p> <p>Tardiness – A clear understanding of musical concepts is best met with good attendance. Those students not in their assigned seat at the beginning of any class are considered Tardy and will be recorded as such in the computer. (<i>School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook</i>) A partial loss of daily points may result. Students more than 3 minutes late to class will be marked absent.</p> <p>Classroom Equipment – Equipment in the classroom is to enhance the learning experience of ALL students. Show respect to all equipment by not writing on tables, leaning on music stands, tipping chairs back, etc. Do not touch any other equipment in the room without permission to do so. Mistreatment of equipment will result in fines to maintain or replace it, disciplinary action or both.</p>

	<p>Food & Drink - Food is NOT ALLOWED in the choir room. Clear water in a sealable container is the only drink allowed.</p> <p>Guitars & Lesson Books – The guitars & lesson books in this class are owned by the Stratford School District. Each student shall be assigned a book & guitar for class use. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the books & guitars are kept in good condition and are cared for properly. If a student damages/ loses a guitar/book, the student will be liable for the cost of repair and/or replacement as outlined in the <i>Guitar Use Agreement Form</i>.</p>
Expectations:	<p>In addition to the Tiger Classroom Pride Expectations matrix (attached), students are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear the class space and set up for class. Each student shall have a chair, music, music stand & pencil (no pens allowed). 2. Complete assignments on time. 3. Maintain fingernails short enough to allow for proper playing position. 4. Play upon the guitar assigned. 5. Please note that electric guitars are not permitted for our class. 6. Pick up after oneself in the classroom, and not eat, drink, or chew gum during class. 7. Always ask before leaving the room, provide student pass book for signing & sign out in record book. 8. Only use cell phones in accordance with SDS Student/Parent Handbook rules. 9. Maintain a positive attitude, be supportive of each other, and work as a team. 10. Return <u><i>Guitar Use Agreement Form</i></u> & <u><i>Syllabus Acknowledgement Form</i></u> signed & dated by both student and parent/guardian by Friday, September 3, 2021.
Academic Integrity Policy:	<p><i>Academic dishonesty is plagiarism, submitting falsified or invented information as fact, unauthorized use of tools, notes, textbooks or electronic devices on assessments, being complicit in the act of allowing another student to copy work or copying another student’s work and submitting as your own.</i> (School District of Stratford 6 – 12 Student/Parent Handbook)</p> <p>Some class work will be expected to be done independently. Students who violate the guidelines of such work will be handled on an individual basis. If a student is unclear whether the work is group or independent work, it is the student’s responsibility to ask. Please be advised that Athletic & Activity Code consequences also pertain to academic integrity violations.</p> <p>1st Offense: Dean of Students (Coaches/Advisors) and parents to be contacted. The student may be allowed to redo the assignment/minor assessment for partial credit (up to 70%).</p> <p>2nd Offense: Principal, Dean of Students (Coaches/Advisors) and parents to be contacted. The student receives a zero on the assignment/minor assessment with no opportunity to recover the lost points.</p> <p>3rd Offense: Same as 2nd offense. Additionally, the student could risk failing the course due to a lack of points.</p>
Practice Guidelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class materials may be stored in assigned slots in the music cabinet. • Practice time will be provided during every class. It is especially important for beginners to get used to holding the guitar and establish good posture habits. Your teacher can show you how to train your fingers. However, you are the one who actually trains them. • Be sure to count rhythms, use proper fingering and maintain good technique as much as possible. These elements are part of your skill assessments. • Ask questions. Not everyone learns at the same rate, so ask for help. I am interested in your achieving success. • Help each other. Some students may have prior knowledge and can also be of assistance. Make connections. You may need help in return at some point in the future. (“Can I borrow a pencil?”)
Grading:	<p>Student knowledge and proficiency will be evaluated on a <u>total point scale</u> through the use of:</p> <p>Formative Classroom Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of all materials necessary to accomplish daily lesson objectives. ▪ Play assigned materials during class time.

- Demonstrate proper playing posture and technique.
- Complete individual classroom assignments and group work.

Skill Assessments

- Perform assigned repertoire in groups and alone demonstrating proficiency on the instrument.
- Grade based upon a rubric that will be provided & reviewed ahead of time.

Written Assignments/Quizzes

- Written assessments on materials covered in class including but not limited to: Music theory, Vocabulary, Quizzes, Listening guides and/or student responses.

Summative

- Two (2) Part: Written Assessment & Skill Assessment

Retakes:

Students who score below 70% on a summative assessment will be allowed to retake the assessment under the following conditions as recorded below. (School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook) However, retakes do not apply to performances or semester final exams.

1. The student must complete a supplemental learning packet and submit it to Mrs. Dahlby for additional assessment.
2. The student must schedule a meeting during the school day (7:30 – 8am, 3:15 – 3:30pm, or other times as available) with Mrs. Dahlby for further remediation.
3. The student must retake the assessment within five (5) days of his/her initial assessment.
4. The student can only retake the assessment once.
5. The second assessment will be a different exam but remain in the same or similar format as the initial assessment.
6. The score of the second assessment will be recorded as the final grade in the grade book.

Students are strongly encouraged to save all graded work (organized) in a folder or binder until accurate recording of the work in Skyward has been verified.

Make-up work: Students are solely responsible to obtain and make up all their missed work. (School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook) Students will have *five (5) school days after the absence* to complete missed work. After the fifth day, the student may receive a zero(s). Unexcused absences will result in a zero in the grade book for that day(s).

To make up an excused absence, students must consult Mrs. Dahlby to obtain materials or other class work missed prior to or within five (5) school days after the absence. Again, unexcused absences will result in a zero in the grade book for that day(s).

Grading Scale	
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
66-67	D
65	D-
0-64	F

GPA Calculation	
4.00	A
3.67	A-
3.33	B+
3.00	B
2.67	B-
2.33	C+
2.00	C
1.67	C-
1.33	D+
1.00	D
0.67	D-
0	F

Posting of Grades: Grades are updated weekly. Please access the Stratford School District website and enter Skyward to view your grade for this class.

Extra credit: Up to 10 points **a semester** may be awarded to students participating in a fine arts event including: private lessons, involvement in Solo & Ensemble contests, pre-approved relevant concert event attendance (ticket stub or program required), etc. at the discretion of Mrs. Dahlby. Written documentation or other evidence is required to support your claim.