**Beginning Guitar**

2016-2017

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| **Instructor:** | Mr. Tillson | **Room Number:** | 141 |
| **Office Phone:** | 720-423-8679 | **Office Hours:** | M-F 2:30-3:15 PM, rm 119 |
| **E-mail:** | Matt\_Tillson@dpsk12.org  | **Google:** | Matt\_Tillson@dpsk12.net  |
| **Classroom Website:** | Tillsonguitar.weebly.com |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a semester long course. By learning the basics of guitar students learn basic music theory, history, and performance techniques. Students will learn to read music and play basic melodies and accompaniments on the guitar. Students will demonstrate what they are learning throughout the class through small performances.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE**

Students will be able to perform music using a variety of musical concepts and self-evaluate through guided student reflection verbally and/or in writing to attain expressive performance.

**GRADING**

Grades will be split into three major categories: teacher evaluation, student evaluation (completion grades), and student performances. Initially, students will be assessed for musical preparedness and will earn a completion grade for attempting the assessment. Then, students will be graded on participation each week based on the attached rubric, and students will also complete self-evaluations based on the same rubric. Additionally, there will be three playing tests that will make up the remainder of students’ semester grades. These will be graded based on completion and student effort.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Guitars will be provided in class. It is recommended that students acquire a guitar in order to practice at home. However, this is not required.

**CLASSROOM NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS**

In order to be successful in this class, students are expected to adhere to school-wide norms of professional behavior, as if they were at a job, higher education or any other professional setting. These norms include:

* Arriving to class on time and prepared to work;
* Adhering to appropriate language and attire;
* Listening in small and large groups;
* Contributing to a safe and positive learning environment;
* Using technology according to teacher direction.

Essentially, students need to arrive prepared to focus on guitar for the entire duration of class each day. Any derogatory language directed at any individual or group, whether that individual or a member of that group is present or not, will not be tolerated at any time. Any student behavior that compromises a safe and positive learning environment for all students will not be tolerated at any time.

**Cell phone policy**: Students will **not** be permitted to use cell phones or other personal technology devices in class **unless specifically approved** by Mr. Tillson. If a student is using a cell phone without approval, Mr. Tillson will confiscate the phone.

* After the first violation, the phone may be returned to the student after class.
* After the 2nd violation, the phone may be returned to the student at the end of the school day with a phone call home.
* After the 3rd violation, a meeting with a parent/guardian will be necessary to address ongoing issues.

Before the start of each class, students will have the option of turning in their phones to Mr. Tillson. These will be kept in a secure location and, if students voluntarily turn in their phones, they will be returned at the end of class. If students choose not to turn in their phones, they are expected to be turned off and kept in a backpack for the duration of class.

**Discipline Policy**:  Students are expected to behave according to the standards of professional behavior outlined above. If a student is unwilling to adhere to professional norms, the following steps will be taken:

* Step 1: Individual conference with student to address behavior problems/move seats.
* Step 2: Student will be informed that a parent/guardian will be contacted. Students may still have the opportunity to correct behavior and impact the type of call their parent/guardian will receive.
* Step 3: Removal from class. Mr. Tillson will call security to have the student removed. Mr. Tillson will also contact parents/guardians to discuss next steps and create a plan to ensure that discipline problems are resolved.

At any time, based on the severity of the issue, Mr. Tillson may choose to skip the steps outlined above and have a student removed from class at his discretion. This will be done only to maintain a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING**

The guitar has always been the basic instrument of rock and roll. In order to reach their fullest potential in this class, students must be prepared to rock. If you think you are prepared to rock, ask yourself: *Are you ready?* If the answer is yes, then: “*For those about to rock, we salute you!”*

**PARENT/STUDENT SIGNATURES**

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_