

**Maine South High School
Guitar 1 Syllabus**

Teacher: Matthew Nix	School Year: 2017-2018
Teacher contact email and website: mnix@maine207.org www.mainesouthorchestras.weebly.com	Textbook title: Sound Innovations for Guitar, Book 1
Available times for student contact: Before and after school, 2nd hour, and 7th hour.	Supplementary materials: As provided in class.

Brief Description of Course:

Guitar 1 1 will explore the basics of guitar playing, and explore different genres of guitar music. Technique and musicianship will be a focus. This is a performance based class, with two concerts during the school year.

Guitar 1 is an opportunity for beginning students to learn the fundamental techniques of the instrument, and for more experienced players to improve their skills. In doing so, students will be able to apply what they have learned to classical and contemporary guitar styles.

List of Major Objectives and/or Units of Study:

Theory and Vocabulary

- Know the parts of the guitar and how to tune it. This includes knowing the numbers and corresponding letter name for each string
- Know note names on the treble clef, from E3 to C6
- Know types of notes and rests and how to count them
- Know basic notation symbols as found in the book - re: repeat, fermata, 1st and 2nd ending, DS, Coda, Fine, etc.
- Know music vocabulary in reference to tempo and dynamics
- Match individual notes to their place on the fretboard (basically - name the note when given tab)
- Read and play melodic lines
- Identify key signatures. This includes knowing scale degrees and how the accidentals work
- Know how chord progressions work (I-IV-V7)

Playing

- Be able to play all chords (Major, minor, and 7) from memory
- Be able to play barre chords (both E and A based)
- Be able to play with a downstroke in time with both thumb and pick
- Be able to play PIMA accompaniments, including PIMA, PIMAMI, and root-strum
- Be able to read and play melodic lines including accidentals
- Play on both classical acoustic and electrics (typically Q4 is the rock band unit)

Major Summative Assessments:

November 14th, 2017: Fall Guitar Concert, 7:30pm.
May 7th, 2018: Spring Guitar Concert, 7:00pm

Method of Evaluation:

30%: Concert Participation
70%: Homework, Playing Assessments, Reflections, and other work.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is critical to the success of student and the band program. Any conflicts with a rehearsal or performance during or after school should be communicated and resolved well in advance with the director. A student's lack of attendance may result in sitting out of a performance. Review grading and retake/redo policy for information about how an absence will affect grading.

Performance:

Excused Absence

Students will attend a concert of MS-Caliber or higher (another high school, college, or professional) and write a paper with specific parameters (both musical and extra-musical qualities of the performance). Students must show that their absence from the performance was unavoidable and not the result of disorganization or negligence. The absence must also be excused by the director well in advance with the exception of emergencies. Students may complete the reassessment at any time until the end of the semester.

Unexcused Absence

NO (No Opportunity) Code in the gradebook.

District Grading Scale:

Code	Range
A+	100 - 97
A	96.99 - 93
A-	92.99 - 90
B+	89.99 - 87
B	86.99 - 83
B-	82.99 - 80
C+	79.99 - 77
C	76.99 - 73
C-	72.99 - 70
D+	69.99 - 67
D	66.99 - 63
D-	62.99 - 60
F	59.99 - 40.03
NY	Can be completed for additional cred
NO	Cannot earn additional credit
Z	Cannot earn additional credit

NY ("Not Yet") = 40.02:

A grade of NY represents assignments that are deemed by the teacher to be missing, incomplete, or those eligible for reassessment.

When assignments are assigned a grade of "NY" students are required to complete them within the timeframe outlined by the classroom teacher. If they are not completed in the allotted timeframe the grade will be changed to "NO".

NO ("No Opportunity for Credit or Reassessment") = 40.01:

A grade of NO represents assignments that are not turned in or are incomplete and are not eligible for reassessment

Z = 40.00:

A grade of Z is an indicator of behavioral issue that has impacted an assignment (i.e. plagiarism, cheating) that has resulted in the lowest possible grade. Students are required to submit original work as directed by the classroom teacher. Students are not to collaborate on tests or other assignments unless directed to do so by the classroom teacher.

Retake/Redo Guidelines:

Playing Tests and other assignments can be retaken/redone, on a case-by-case basis. The second score will be the recorded score.

Classroom Expectations and Class Rules:

1. Treat your colleagues, belongings, and facilities with respect and care.
2. Come to class prepared to learn: instrument, pencil, music, rosin, shoulder rest, rockstop, and any other materials that you will need.
3. Be on time. When you enter the classroom, you should immediately prepare for class to start. Set down your belongings, get your instrument, and begin tuning and warming up. Greeting your fellow classmates is great, but keep it short and sweet.
4. Restrooms: generally, passing time should be used for restroom needs. If there is an emergency need to use the restroom, quickly and quietly approach Mr. Nix to get the yellow restroom tag.
5. Chamber Music/Sectionals: sometimes, we will split off into small groups for class, and use the Performing Arts Wing facilities and practice rooms. Your behavior in these rooms should be no different than in the large classroom.
6. Questions: we love music related questions in orchestra class! If you have one, you may quietly ask someone near you if they have the answer. You can also raise your hand for Mr. Nix to address your question.
7. We will treat everyone in the classroom with dignity and care. We recognize that there are many different variants of race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender expression, religion, ability, and other characteristics in our classroom, and will accept those variants openly and without discrimination against one another.

Student/Parent Signature Form

I have received and read the Guitar 1 Syllabus and understand its contents.

I choose to abide by the Maine Township District 207 Code of Conduct, and the policies of the
Maine South HS Guitar 1 Syllabus:

Student Print Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Print Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Detach and turn this Signature Sheet into Mr. Nix by Tuesday, August 22nd.