



## Syllabus

**Course: Beginning Guitar**

**Semester: 1/Year: 2017-2018**

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Office hrs/Availability: 11:30-1:00pm

### **Course Description/Overview**

Students with a desire and commitment to learn how to play the guitar are eligible for this course.

Beginning Guitar students will understand basic musical notation, and apply it to a variety of tunes. Students will also develop a basic “vocabulary” of chords and strumming rhythms.

Emphasis is placed on the understanding of music symbols and notation, and the ability to play and perform together as an ensemble.

**Required Materials:** Students will be issued a copy of “**David Ritsema’s Beginning Guitar Method**” book. Pencils or pens are recommended, as are a positive attitude, self-motivation and determination.

## Outline of lessons

Week of	Content	Page #
8/28	Open strings 1 - 3	5-6
9/4	Notes on 1 <sup>st</sup> string	7-8
9/11	Notes on 2 <sup>nd</sup> string	9-10
9/18	Combining first two strings	11-12
9/25	3 <sup>rd</sup> string and 8 <sup>th</sup> notes	13-16
10/2	Chord playing	17-20
10/9	Chord playing	17-20
10/16	Chord playing	17-20
10/23	Chord playing	17-20
10/30	Chord playing	17-20
11/6	Tied notes	21-23
11/13	Dotted notes	24-25
11/20	Sharps and flats	26-28
11/27	Sharps and flats	26-28
12/4	Open strings 4 - 6	29-32
12/11	Notes on 4 <sup>th</sup> string	33-35
12/18	Notes on 5 <sup>th</sup> string	36-37
1/15	Notes on 6 <sup>th</sup> string	38-40

**Grading:**

- **Class participation:** 30% - Frequent unexcused absences or tardies, unnecessary conversation, poor use of time severely affects participation points.
- **Performance assessments:** 50% - Assessments are introduced at the start of every week. The more examples you are able to play, the stronger your grade.
- **Quizzes:** 20% - (See above)

**Grading scale**

WHS GRADING SCALE		Grade Definitions
<b>A</b>	93.00 - 100%	<b>Exemplary work</b> Demonstrates rigorous practice and a high level of performance practices. Demonstrates the highest level of self-learning.
<b>A-</b>	90.00 – 92.99%	
<b>B+</b>	87.00 – 89.99%	<b>Proficient/Thorough Work</b> Demonstrates thorough practice and a proficient level of performance practices.
<b>B</b>	83.00 - 86.99%	
<b>B-</b>	80.00 – 82.99%	
<b>C+</b>	77.00 – 79.99%	<b>Demonstrates acceptable work</b> Demonstrates little practicing and performance skills. Usually prompted by the teacher
<b>C</b>	73.00 – 76.99%	
<b>C-</b>	70.00 – 72.99%	
<b>D+</b>	67.00 – 69.99%	<b>Mediocre work</b> Has not demonstrated self-management performance practices and skills.
<b>D</b>	63.00 - 66.99%	
<b>D-</b>	60.00 – 62.99%	
<b>F</b>	0 – 59.99%	<b>Unacceptable work</b> Has not demonstrated any work or any performance skills.

*Grading modifications may be made for students with IEP or 504 plans.*