

Baldwin-Whitehall School District
Baldwin High School
Instrumental Music Department

Course Title: Introduction to Guitar

Credit/ Term: 1.0/year

Course Number: 740

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Description: Intro to Guitar is a beginning guitar course designed for musical novices with no prior experience. Students do not need to own a guitar in order to participate. Popular songs serve as a vehicle for students to learn performance skills and gain knowledge which will enable them to continue to grow as guitarists after completion of the course. Chord/lead sheets and guitar tab are both utilized during the course and the History of Rock & Roll is touched on as a frame of reference for our song selections throughout the year.

Instructor Information:

Ms. Marissa Virgin

mvirgin@bwschools.net

(412) 884-6300 ext. 6980

Twitter: @msvirginmusic

Remind: @baldguitar

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

The students enrolled in this course will be expected to:

- Attend class daily
- Participate in class discussion and activities
- Use time wisely when given time to prepare individually
- Complete all in and out of class assignments
- Complete all playing tests
- Complete writing projects
- Make up work when absent – it is your responsibility to find out what you missed!

STANDARDS/ BENCHMARKS

The students will be able to:

- Identify the parts of the guitar
- Tune their guitars using a tuner
- Play the guitar using proper technique and posture
- Understand basic guitar notation including chord symbols and tab

- Understand and correctly perform major, minor, seventh, minor seventh, and sus4 chords
- Understand and correctly perform a variety of scales
- Understand and be able to perform from a lead sheet
- Perform a variety of strumming and picking patterns
- Understand musical forms, including the 12 bar blues

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

- Class participation
- Independent practice
- Quizzes
- Playing evaluations
- Semester exam (Mid-Term)
- Class participation
- Independent practice
- Writing assignments
- Final project
- Final exam
- Class participation
- Independent practice

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Students are expected to:

- Be respectful towards staff and peers
- Follow classroom procedures and directions
- Put forth effort and focus on the task at hand

Consequences for failing to meet these expectations can include a verbal warning, a 20 minute band detention, and/or disciplinary referral.

PROCEDURES

- Guitarists should enter class and have a seat
- When the bell rings, students will move in small groups to the guitar room and carefully retrieve their assigned guitar
- Once students acquire their instruments they should have a seat and begin the daily “Go” activity
- Students should hold their guitars at all times; when not being played, guitars should be placed in their cases
- After class, students will return their instruments in groups, carefully placing them in the correct place in the storage room, in the correct order
- Cell phones (photos, texting, calls) and food are not permitted during class
- Agendas will be used when students must leave class; you **MUST** speak to Ms. Virgin and get her signature before leaving the class for any reason
- Class participation and focused, independent practice are keys to success in guitar class!