**CASTAIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7/8 Grade Beginning Guitar Mr. Chandler

Room M5

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1+(661) 257-2207 (ext. 2206)

Hi, my name is Mr. Chandler, and I am your child’s beginning guitar music teacher. I am very excited to have your child in my guitar class! Music making is a lot of fun, but it is also a privilege. The goal of this class will be not only teach your child how to play the guitar, but also what it means to be a musician. Each and every day I will strive to build a greater love for learning in your child and to use the guitar as a means to help them grow as individuals and impact their lives beyond the classroom. This class emphasizes the learning of **key life skills**, such as **hard work**, **perseverance/ patience**, and **teamwork**. Students will be able to answer essential questions such as “What are the skills needed before learning a piece of music?” and “What makes a significant and meaningful performance?” This class will be covering the 5 common core state standards for visual and performing arts, which include the following:

1. ARTISTIC PERCEPTION
2. CREATIVE EXPRESSION
3. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
4. AESTHETIC VALUING
5. CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Beginning guitar 7/8 provides the students an opportunity to develop their musical skills by playing the guitar. Students will be able to demonstrate proper playing technique, develop the ability to tune the guitar, identify the 7 elements of music, be able to read basic guitar tablature, and will be introduced to standard music notation. Simple melodies and chords will be rehearsed and performed. There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Performances**

There will be one required performance at the end of the semester at our Winter Extravaganza concert. The date for this concert will be announced at back to school night on August 24th.

Concert Dress Code

Every student in band at Castaic Middle School is expected to follow a set of guidelines for dressing appropriately at band concerts. The uniform for a concert is as follows:

* Men: BLACK dress pants, WHITE dress shirt, BLACK BOW TIE, BLACK dress socks, BLACK dress shoes
* Women: Long BLACK dresses below the knee, or BLACK dress pants and BLACK dress blouse with sleeves, BLACK dress shoes. Please wear shoes that you can move up and down stairs safely (while carrying your instrument). Hose are optional but encouraged.

Why such a strict dress code?

* Our MUSIC is the focus of our concerts, not the personal fashion choices of any individual.
* What we achieve as an ensemble, we achieve TOGETHER. Our uniform is an expression of that sentiment.
* As musicians, our entire energy in rehearsal and performance is spent in the world of sound. However, the visual world always takes precedence in the human brain. We need to dress and act in a way that puts the audience's focus on our MUSIC.

If you have any questions about our dress code policy, please contact me early in the year so that appropriate clothing can be found for your child.

**CLASSOOM RULES**

The rules of my class are simple:

**Be on time:** You have until the tardy bell rings to be in your seat ready to work. If you are not in your seat at that time, you will be tardy.

**Be prepared:** Come with an alert mind and positive attitude, ready to learn! Strive to always have the necessary school supplies (pencil, eraser, lined paper, etc.) If you forget or run out of supplies, I am happy to provide what you need!

**Be attentive:** You must strive to be focused and not stray from the task at hand. If any student has a question, they must raise their hand and wait to be called upon, or they may write it down to ask after class if they feel it is important. Directions will be given throughout rehearsals; students must respond accordingly and in a timely fashion so that they do not fall behind in their concert preparation.

**Be respectful**: An important part of growing as a guitarist/musician is being able to learn in a comfortable and secure environment. Treat others with respect and offer help to those who need it. If I am giving directions, please be quiet. Disrupting the class after receiving a warning will result in a demerit or a referral to the principal’s office. If other students are playing or speaking, please set an example for them and listen respectfully.

**ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY** – If a student knows they are going to be missing class, it is their responsibility to come by during my office hours to ask for work ahead of time. If they are unable to notify me in advance of their absence, I am more than happy to let them know what they missed. Students who are tardy without a pass from the office will be marked late and will receive a demerit.

**LATE WORK POLICY** – Each day an assignment is late will result in a 10% deduction from the total points for that assignment. If a student has an unexcused absence, I will allow one additional day for them to receive full credit.

**CLASROOM TEXTBOOKS** – Students will be working primarily out of Essential Elements for Guitar by Will Schmid and Bob Morris, produced by the Hal Leonard Corporation. This comprehensive guitar method book is an essential source of material that will allow each musician to build their musical skills by means of scaffolded instruction. This book will help students gain self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment quickly through its focus on music fundamentals. Students will be able to gain the confidence and the skills necessary to play additional, more complex music literature for public performances, starting with our Winter Concert, and beyond, if the student decides that they would like to pursue guitar studies further. This book is provided in class and will not be necessary to purchase.

**GRADING POLICY**

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

59% and below = F

Homework/Classwork (35%): Although I do not assign much homework in this class, there will be assignments from time to time that students will need to complete and turn in for a grade. The majority of assignments will be started or completed during our allotted class time.

Projects (10%): There will be several composition projects that students will need to complete. Ample time will be provided for students to complete their composition projects during class time.

Playing Tests (40%): In order to assess everyone’s progress, there will be numerous playing tests throughout the course of the semester. Plenty of class time will be given to prepare for each playing test.

Written Tests (15%): There will be numerous written quizzes and tests given once or twice a month on guitar vocabulary and music theory terms that students will learn and apply during class. Students can prepare for these tests by actively staying engaged during class and regularly reviewing the content posted in their google classroom. Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student that is caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment whatsoever, will be given an immediate failing grade for that assignment without chance for make-up.

**TEACHER CONFERENCE PERIOD and EXTRA ASSISTANCE**

My conference time is during my 1th period. Because CMS runs on a rotation block schedule, my 1st period falls on every odd day.

Odd Day 1: 9:30-11:00

Odd Day 3: 1:30-3:00

Odd Day 5: 11:20-12:50

**PARENTS!**

If your child needs any additional help or needs to come by to pick up or make up an assignment due to an absence, I am available during my office hours, as listed above. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with me in person, you can see my conference period hours, as listed above. The quickest and easiest way to get in touch with me I through email or Jupiter Ed. My email address and phone extension are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have questions or concerns.

This is your first super easy homework assignment of the year! All you have to do is sign and return this sheet showing me that you have read and understand this syllabus☺

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or concerns? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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