

# Guitar I&II Syllabus - Fall 2014

Mr. Matthew Karram

matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org

## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with introductory experiences on the guitar in performance skills and interpretation of simple notation.

The content should include, but not be limited to, a thorough introduction to music fundamentals, guitar performance techniques, and interpretation of musical notation including chord symbols.

Guitar II students may be given different assignments and projects based on ability.

## Required Materials

Pencil

1" 3-ring binder with several sheets of lined paper

## Grading

Classwork 10%

-Worksheets, class participation, practice logs, and projects

Formative Assessments 30%

-Playing quizzes, written quizzes

Summative Assessments 50%

-Playing tests. written tests

Taking Notes 10%

-Theory notes, vocabulary, markings in books/sheet music

## Instrument Use

The school will provide use of guitars for all students in guitar class. Students will be assigned a guitar number and may only use that guitar. Students will be responsible for covering the cost of any repairs beyond broken strings.

Students may choose to bring in their own instrument. However, Lincoln Park Academy will not be responsible for its safety. If you choose to bring your own guitar, you do so at your own risk.

Unfortunately, we do not have lockers that will fit guitars, so if it remains in the band room, it will be unsecured.

## Classroom Procedures and Expectations

Students are expected to adhere to all parts of the St. Lucie County Code of Student Conduct.

All students must be in their seats with instruments out **within 3 minutes of the start of class**. Any students not in their seats will be marked tardy.

During class, all students are expected to **remain quiet during instruction and transitions** unless told otherwise. There will be numerous opportunities given in class for individual work or helping neighbors. Class members must be attentive to instructions the first time given in order to ensure a productive learning environment.

There is to be absolutely no gum chewing in the music room. All trash must be placed in the trash bin. The music room must be kept neat and organized. If you use the restroom located in the music room, it must be left clean and you must wash your hands before returning to class.

Disruptive students may be asked to remove themselves from the class until they are prepared to focus. Any student removed from the group during class will fill out a reflection form. Depending on the severity of the disruption, a referral may be filled out. Three reflection forms will automatically lead to a referral and/or a call home.

Instruments are provided by the school and must be treated with respect. Students are responsible for damages to the instruments beyond regular wear. **Under no circumstances** are students allowed to change strings on their own without teacher supervision. Tuning should be done by the teacher or with teacher help.

-----

Daily warm-ups: A significant portion of each class will be devoted to developing basic skills in tone and technique. All students are expected to participate to the best of their ability. Failure to participate will cause a loss of participation points for the day.

Sheet music and songs: Each class will include a new exercise, review of previous exercises, or work on separate sheet music. Students are expected to be prepared to perform to the best of their ability. If the class is reviewing an exercise or piece of music, students should have a working knowledge of the skills required to perform it and/or come prepared with questions for clarification.

Listening Exercises: Some class periods will include a listening exercise. During a listening example, students **must remain silent**. These activities may include a worksheet, free write, discussion, or marking-up of music.

Playing quizzes: All students will be required to perform playing quizzes in class. During these quizzes, all students are required to listen attentively and finger along on their own instrument. Occasionally, students will be asked to give supportive and constructive comments to their classmates. **Negative comments will NOT be tolerated.** Our goal is to maintain a safe atmosphere for all members of our class to grow and improve.

---

**Parent/Student Agreement**

I have read the above syllabus and understand the guitar classroom expectations. I understand that I am responsible for the care of my guitar while I am using it. If any damage should occur, I will notify Mr. Karram immediately in order to assess and prevent further damage.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*\*Signature due by 8/26/14