

## **Guitar Class**

Mr. Pfaff

Welcome to Beginning Guitar Class.

Below is a brief description of some of the expectations and policies for the upcoming year. This should be read over and kept in your folder to refer to during the school year. This should also be shown to your parents. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to playing the guitar. Students learn how to hold and tune a guitar, sight reading and technique, forming and playing chords, and simple melodies. Students give a recital during the school year.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to:

Come to class prepared and on time.

Behave appropriately in class.

Work well with others AND independently.

Show respect to your classmates and your teacher.

Practice regularly.

Actively participate in the lessons and rehearsals.

Students are expected to follow the schools policies. (See Student Handbook.)

### GRADING

You are graded on Practice and Performance.

50% of grade

Practice Grade

You will post a practice log in your book and will have your parent/guardian sign each week to vouch for your practice time. 100+ minutes/week = A, 80-99 min/wk = B, 40-79 min/wk = C, 20-39 min/wk = D, 19 min/wk or fewer = F

### 50% of grade

#### Performance Grade

Each week you will be expected to learn new material and reinforce previously learned material. In class, you will *perform* this material -- demonstrating that you have practiced well and effectively. Demeanor and cooperation count in your Performance grade as well.

Additionally, the guitar class performs a recital during the school year. Attendance and participation in the recital is MANDATORY. Only in rare and extreme circumstances would a student be excused from the recital. Unexcused absence from the recital will result in a two-letter drop in marking period grade.

### MATERIALS

While guitars and textbooks are provided for use in class, students need to have access to a guitar and textbook at home to practice.

Students must purchase their own textbook for practice at home.

The required text is called Mastering the Guitar by William Bay and Mike Christiansen. List price is \$9.95. There are several versions -- be sure to buy the "CLASS METHOD Level 1/Beginning 9th Grade and Higher". *NOTE - Your instructor has copies on order which you may purchase at cost.*

### STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATENESS

When a student is absent, he/she is expected to make up any missed work and is responsible for any material covered. The student will be expected to get the notes for the missed lesson(s) from a classmate. When a student misses a lesson, it is his/her responsibility to arrange for and attend a make-up lesson.

If a student is/will be absent for an extended period of time, arrangements can be made for the student to receive the assignments at home.

A student is considered late to class when arriving without a pass after the bell has rung.

## CONTACTING ME

If you have any questions for me or there are any matters you would like to discuss, now or any time throughout the year, feel free to speak with me outside of class time or email me at [andpfa@bergen.org](mailto:andpfa@bergen.org).

This invitation also extends to your parents and/or guardians, who are encouraged to contact me at any time. They may also contact me by phone at the school by leaving a message for me.

Good luck!

Mr. Pfaff

**BY SIGNING BELOW, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:**

I have received and read the information given to me by my teacher. This includes student expectations, the grading policy, and the materials needed. I understand the policies explained by my teacher. I have also shown this material to my parent / guardian.

STUDENT INFORMATION -- Please fill out and return

Students name

Students signature

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Parent or Guardians name(s)

Parent or Guardians signature

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Home phone number

Best Time to Call

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Daytime phone number

Best Time to Call

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Parent / Guardians Email address(es)

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Mailing address

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September 5, 2007

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your son/daughter is taking Beginning Guitar as part of his/her course schedule this year.

As his/her teacher, I look forward to working with your child and I will work hard to give him/her quality professional instruction. There are certain responsibilities that must be maintained by the students in order to be successful. Your child has received some general information about the course, including student expectations and the grading policy. I have asked that he/she show you this material. Please take a few moments to review this information with him/her.

I maintain a website (<http://www.andrewpfaff.com/BCTHSmusic>) with information about this and other BCTHS music courses, including a calendar of events.

Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year if you have any questions. You can leave a message for me at (201) 343 6000 xt 5148 or I can be emailed at [andpfa@bergen.org](mailto:andpfa@bergen.org).

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Pfaff  
Music Instructor