

# Henry M. Jackson High School

## Guitar Syllabus: 1st Semester, 2014-15

### **Course Information**

**Teacher:** David Lamoreux

**Course:** Guitar 1

**Period:** 2, 3

**Primary Subject Area:** *Fine Arts*

**On Line Grades:** <http://cms.everett.k12.wa.us/jacksonhigh> (JHS Online- Grades)

### **Teacher Communication**

**Email:** [dlamoreux@everettsd.org](mailto:dlamoreux@everettsd.org) (best; see p4)

**Planning Period:** 5

**Room:** B108

### **Course Description**

Guitar is a performance-based techniques class offering introductory experience in, and opportunity for development and improvement of fundamental skills in guitar. Topics covered include

- basic guitar playing technique
- tuning, instrument care, and basic maintenance
- learning note names on the guitar fretboard and how to find them
- reading music notes, rests, music symbols, and guitar tablature from the printed page
- reading melodies, chords, and scales
- identifying different music forms, structures, and styles
- basic strumming and picking patterns/techniques
- performing a mixture of different song styles (including traditional, pop, rock, folk, and blues) as a soloist, with a partner, and as a group

Related career pathways include music composition, arranging, recording, audio production, multimedia, and performance.

### **Guitar Class: Course Essential Learning Outcomes**

Students will learn

1. to properly tune a guitar to the standard open string tuning pitches of E A D G B E, as demonstrated by tuning a de-tuned guitar to proper intonation
2. to read standard music notation (notes, rests, chords, symbols, rhythms), as demonstrated by results of written quizzes/ and performance evaluations of selected melodies and chords written in standard music notation
3. note names and common chord fingerings on the guitar fretboard and how to find them, as demonstrated by results of written quizzes and performance evaluations of selected melodies and chord progressions written in standard music notation
4. how to read and perform chords and basic music scale and chord progressions in common keys, as demonstrated by results of written quizzes and performance evaluations of chord progressions in the indicated keys
5. to perform individually and with others for an audience, demonstrated by results of solo and ensemble performance evaluations conducted by the teacher and playing demonstrations for the class

**Advanced students** will learn and improve the above skills and refine technique, working with a suitable selection of more advanced music and music theory concepts in a variety major and minor keys.

## Class Materials

### **School Supplied Instructional Materials include:**

*Beginning Guitar SuperBook*, by Will Schmid, Pub. Hal Leonard, music stand for class use; Supplemental music and handout study materials

Although the *Beginning Guitar SuperBook* is provided by the school, it is recommended that students purchase a personal copy, as they will need to extensively add personal rehearsal marks. It is available at full retail prices through music stores (appr. \$20.00), or through online sources such as Amazon.com.

### **Required Student Supplied Materials:**

Acoustic guitar, Case or cover, Picks (Music stand for home practice is recommended), Organized notebook with writing paper and subject dividers, pencil; Student instruments must be clearly labeled with name.

### **It is strongly recommended that instruments be covered by insurance. Jackson High School does not insure student equipment and assumes no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to student instruments.**

In accordance with school policy, use of electronic devices such as cell phones, CD players, and iPods, is not permitted the classroom. Course related exceptions for music players may at times be made with instructor permission.

### **Guitar Class Assignments & Activities:**

Student practice, assignment, and testing materials come from the class text (*Beginning Guitar SuperBook*) and supplemental handouts furnished throughout the course. Students are furnished monthly assignment sheets detailing material that will be covered in class (assignments, written test/quiz material, play tests, scoring rubrics, etc.) for that time period. The monthly handout includes all pertinent time frames, due dates, and deadlines. Assignments and other information are posted on the class website accessible from school computers (not home).

Much of regular class time is devoted to individual practice in building, practicing, and improving necessary skills required to accomplish assignments and projects as a means to demonstrate competence and mastery of skills and topics taught in the course. Individual help is provided as necessary and requested. Students develop skills and expertise to collaborate with and assist each other as needed and appropriate.

## **Grades**

### **Grading Scale:**

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-	87-89% = B+	83-86% = B	80-82% = B-
77-79% = C+	73-76% = C	70-72% = C-	60-69% = D	0-59% = F

### **Jackson High School Grading System**

- A** Produces markedly superior work and consistently demonstrates a high understanding/attainment of course objectives
- B** Masters skills thoroughly; usually demonstrates a good understanding/attainment of course objectives
- C** Demonstrates satisfactory attainment of course objectives
- D** Demonstrates minimal attainment of course objectives
- S** Is satisfactorily completing modified course requirements  
(Use of the "S" grade must be approved by the Learning Support program.)
- F** Student has failed the course
- I** Work is incomplete at end of course; A contract and timeline for the completion of missing work has been written by the student and the teacher. After three weeks, the grade converts to an F unless the missing work is completed.

Regularly updated progress reports for this class are available online at the Jackson website.

Online grades reported show student progress to date and are an indication of overall course performance. Only the final grade is recorded on a student's official transcript.

## **Citizenship is a crucial determining factor in student success.**

It is an important expectation of this class that students exhibit the ability to work responsibly, respectfully, and cooperatively- individually, with fellow students, and adults. [More details follow](#)

## **Course Grading Criteria:**

Students are evaluated on the following criteria-

**Attendance-** Daily attendance points given for following:

- Student consistently arrives to class on time with necessary gear (as listed in Classroom Materials),
- sits at assigned seat and prepares instrument/equipment
- completes necessary preparation activities each day at the beginning of the period to be completed within five minutes of the beginning bell; Varied preparation activities include performed/written tune-up, warm-up exercises, reading/listening exercises and drills, analyzing recorded music examples. All activities are integrated steps of the learning requirements that achieve the stated curricular goals of the class.

[More details follow](#)

**Preparation-**

- Has necessary class equipment (instrument, music, pencil)
- Results of tests, quizzes, written assignments, recordings, and projects

**Participation-**

- Student actively participates in class discussions, demonstrations, review sessions, assignments, presentations, projects, and daily class practice activities to the best of his/her ability;
- Completion of assignments, assigned class work, and evidence of same (results of daily class practice activities, playing tests, performances)

[More details follow](#)

## **Attendance**

**Regular daily attendance is critical to your success.**

Jackson H.S. and Everett School District policies with regard to attendance will be followed strictly.

As stated in the JHS student handbook, absences are defined as follows:

**Excused Absences include** illness, family emergency, religious holiday, court date, funeral, medically related appointments, school initiated activity, recognized community service activities approved by the Board, and other activities with **prior administrative approval.**

- Students are obligated to furnish the classroom teacher an excuse note from the attendance office for any and all absences in accordance with school attendance policy WITHIN 48 HOURS of returning to school for absence to be counted as excused.
- If school related absences are having a negative impact on a student's class performance, a teacher may deny permission for the absence. Absenteeism due to approved school-sponsored activities will not result in loss of credit provided missed work is promptly made up.

**Unexcused absences include** skipping class (truancy), non-emergency, non-illness related appointments, shopping trips, non-medical appointments, social and recreational activities, non-approved vacation trips, transportation problems, oversleeping, and work.

- Students receive no credit for graded activities on days they have an unexcused absence.

**Tardiness is unacceptable.**

**Unexcused tardiness is defined** as being in the classroom after the start-of-period bell rings without an excused note from a faculty member or the attendance office.

- Students arriving to class more than 10 minutes after the start of the period without a note from a faculty member or the attendance office are considered absent. They must report to the attendance office for an excuse slip and turn it in to the classroom teacher to qualify for an excused absence.

## **Participation points**

Students earn daily class participation points (which count towards semester grade) in the following manner:

### **4 points:**

- Student is in his/her seat, prepared with instrument, music, pencil, and necessary accessories; Being SEATED with necessary gear at the start-of-class bell is considered on-time.
- Student is on task and actively participates in class to the best of his/her ability

### **3 points:**

- Student is prepared with instrument, music, pencil, and necessary accessories
- Student may be late or have forgotten a pencil/book, etc., but actively participates in class without disrupting others and is prepared for assigned classroom activities/performances

### **2 points:**

- Student has necessary equipment, but chooses to not fully participate; exhibits disruptive, repeated off-task behaviors; not thoroughly prepared for assigned classroom activities/performances

### **1 point:**

- Student minimally participates in class, is missing major necessary gear (instrument, etc.), is disruptive to others
- Student not prepared for assigned classroom activities/performances

### **0 points:**

- Student does not participate in classroom activities/performances
- Student demonstrates obvious lack of preparation/participation in the above
- Unexcused absence from class;
- Student is obligated to furnish excuse note for any and all absences in accordance with school policy

## **Citizenship and Responsibility Expectations:**

Students are expected to be in class, follow all classroom directions, and give their best effort.

Furthermore, students are expected to place school work as a higher priority than part-time jobs, social activities, and participation in clubs and outside school activities so that those activities are not used as excuses to for failure to meet class requirements. It is expected that students will schedule makeup time outside of class (subject to instructor availability) if/when necessary to ensure that class requirements are met in full.

Parents are expected to take an active role in monitoring student progress by

- checking regularly updated student progress reports through on-line grades accessed through the school website homepage. These reports are intended to keep parents and guardians informed about student progress.
- talking with your student; Asking them about their work in this class and how things are going; Asking them to explain/demonstrate (when possible) their work.

## **Guitar Class Additional Information:**

Specific class rules, policies, etc. are listed in detail on a handout given to students and covered in class at the beginning of the term. Please contact me if problems or questions.

## **Contact Information:**

Since I teach in three different areas of the building **the best way to reach me is via my email address (dlamoreux@everettsd.org).**

I check email several times a day. If you want me to call, please include your name (and your student's name) and a phone number where I may reach you. I am usually able to respond within 24 hours (possibly longer during busy times).

This is my thirteenth year at Jackson. I am excited to be here and look forward to meeting and working with students, parents, and our school community.

**Guitar Class**  
**SYLLABUS VERIFICATION**  
**Complete both sides and return- Required**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First and last; Please print)

**Parents, please check boxes, sign and date both sides, and return to indicate understanding and consent. Contact instructor immediately with questions or concerns regarding any issue addressed in this syllabus.**

**Student Internet Use**

The Internet may occasionally be used in this class for instructional tutorials and to research various music resource sites. It should be used by students and parents on a regular basis to access on-line grades.

**Everett School District IMS Online Grading System**

Student assignment due dates and grades for this class will be posted online.

Students will be required to register in class within the first few days of the semester.

Online grades reported show student progress to date (last update shown at top of screen).

After your student has registered, you may also register by logging in to the following web address:

*<https://ims.everett.k12.wa.us>* (Find JHS Online- Grades)

**Parent Questionnaire** (Please check below how you will check your student's progress)

- I will monitor my student's grades on-line at the Everett District IMS web site by registering at *<https://ims.everett.k12.wa.us>*
- I will monitor student grades by having my student access the Everett School District IMS website at school and print off a progress report whenever I ask for it.

My Son or daughter learns best when:

Communication (Please print neatly):

My/our email address is:

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Parent/Guardian Name	Phone Ext.	Time of Day
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Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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Student Signature	Date
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**5 credit points earned if returned to class by next class day.**  
**3 credit points earned if returned to class within two class days.**  
**1 credit point earned if returned after two class days.**

## Student Responsibility and Behavior in Guitar Class:

While in class the student has the following responsibilities:

- **To observe all routines and procedures established by the teacher**
- **To observe the rules of safety, as well as all school and classroom rules**
- **To act maturely, cooperate with the teacher, and assume responsibility for completion of all assigned tasks**

During class time the student is asked to follow these routines:

- Sit in your assigned seat.
- Assemble your instrument, set up music stand and necessary music, stow extra gear safely out of the way, warm up, and await the instructions for the day.
- Be attentive to instructor during demonstrations and instructions.
- During allotted class practice times focus on individual practice to the best of your ability and follow necessary steps to solve problems before you ask for help.
- For help, raise your hand and patiently wait for assistance. If immediate assistance not possible, try to problem-solve on your own or with help from a neighbor.
- Do not leave your seat unless requested to do so by instructor
- At the end of class safely pack instruments/music stands, straighten up chairs, clean your space, and store all equipment in designated area.

### **Students are to follow these rules while in the classroom:**

- No food, drink, or gum in the classroom. Foreign substances may damage equipment.
- All areas of faculty lounge (our classroom) off limits except seating and designated storage area. This includes vending machines and adult restrooms.
- Respect the rights of others. Do not use others' equipment/music without permission. Students are responsible for damage to equipment due to mishandling or abuse.
- Use of electronic devices (such as cell phones, CD players, and iPods) is not permitted in the classroom. Use of prohibited electronic devices in the classroom will result in disciplinary action and subsequent parental notification.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your instrument is clearly labeled with your name and stored in your designated areas when not in use.
- Instruments are stored at school solely at your risk. Jackson High School does not insure your instrument and is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.

Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disciplinary action, including removal from the classroom.

I have received and read the code of behavior and my responsibilities in the classroom.

My signature below indicates that I understand the class rules and my responsibilities and agree to follow this code.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date