

# Guitar 1A&B

## MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL 2015-2016

**Instructor:** Ms. Isabel Hernández-Catá

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays during period 5 & 6 and by appointment

### Course Description

This course is open to all students, regardless of musical background. It is geared towards students who have a genuine interest in playing guitar but do not yet play, but is also for experienced students who are new to the guitar program at Blair. This course will provide a solid foundation in guitar for lifelong playing and will prepare students for Guitar 2 (Guitar Ensemble) in subsequent years at Blair.

### Course Objectives

- ♪ to demonstrate knowledge of elementary level guitar technique: sitting position, hand and arm position, mechanical movements, tone production, scales, chords, arpeggios, musical balance and phrasing.
- ♪ to demonstrates knowledge of beginning guitar literature.
- ♪ to demonstrate knowledge and practice of basic stage etiquette.
- ♪ to demonstrate the ability to read and play music -- single line, polyphonic textures and dynamics -- in the first position (frets 1-4).
- ♪ to demonstrate the ability to perform beginning solo and ensemble literature for a classroom audience -- as well as a stage performance.
- ♪ to demonstrate the ability to aurally recognize different styles and genre of guitar music.

### Course Materials:

Course Text: *First Year Guitar*, Class Guitar Resources; Welch, Marsters, and Prasse & other handouts provided by the instructor.

Guitars are provided for class use and, if a student wishes to practice at home, can be signed out for overnight or weekend use. All other accessories will be provided for the student including strings and a pick. Students may opt to bring their own classical guitars to class. **Students will be expected to provide a binder for storage and retrieval of handouts and to have a pencil in class each day.**

### Grading:

Playing assessments will pertain to the skills learned in class. Written tests will be graded on music reading, music theory, and terminology. Students will also be graded on the skills they exhibit in preparation for the aforementioned assessments. Therefore, consistent attendance and adherence to class policies is essential for success in Guitar class.

Practice skills/homework = 10%
Formative assessments = 40%
Summative assessments = 50%

Students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding through formative and summative assignments such as:

- Regular quizzes and other assessments requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts of music theory and notation, styles and genres of guitar music, and guitar technique and repertoire.
- Oral and/or written critiques and analyses of live and recorded performances
- Musical performance: learning and performing songs as assigned by the instructor (see rubric below)

Written homework will be assigned rarely. Because there is no home practice expectation for this course, the majority of the “Homework” grade will consist of a weekly, in-class practice skills grade - students should be on time, prepared, and on task throughout the class period, and anything less will result in loss of points.

### **Class Policies & Expectations:**

- ♪ Students are expected to treat the all equipment with respect. Students are responsible for getting all equipment at the start of class and for the condition of the room at the end of class.
- ♪ To that end, there is **no food (including candy and gum) or drinks allowed in the classroom.**
- ♪ ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to be seated in their assigned seats, and in possession of all materials needed for class within two minutes of the bell ringing. We will tune at the beginning of class before we begin our lesson. We will follow the Blair attendance policy. You can read about it in your student handbook, which you should bring with you to class each day. Please bear in mind that in performance-based classes, attendance is essential to the success of the ensemble (or class). Participating in rehearsals and in-class activities is necessary for the teacher to assess the students’ readiness for culminating activities and performances. By missing these rehearsals and in-class activities, students may not be allowed to participate in the culminating performance and will be required to complete an alternative assessment at the discretion of the teacher.
- ♪ Mobile Phones & other electronic devices: There may be times during class when the teacher gives students the option to consult electronic devices for instructional purposes (e.g. tuning or repertoire research). The rest of the time, we will follow the MBHS policy, wherein devices must be stowed away during class time.
- ♪ Refrain from talking and or making disruptive noise during instructional time. There will be class time allotted for group collaboration.
- ♪ Students are expected to keep all handouts, worksheets, lecture notes, etc. organized and easily accessible in a single binder.
- ♪ Respect is essential in this class – I will always be respectful towards you, and I expect the same in return for both your peers and me!

**Sample Guitar Playing Assessment Rubric**

<b>Category</b>	<b>1-3 pts</b>	<b>4-6 pts</b>	<b>7-9 pts</b>	<b>10 pts</b>
<b>CORRECT NOTES/CHORDS</b>	Plays with many incorrect notes/chords.	Plays with several note/chord mistakes.	Plays with very few note/chord mistakes.	Plays all notes/chords as written.
<b>CORRECT RHYTHMS</b>	Plays with many incorrect rhythms. Does not change chords at correct time.	Plays with several rhythm mistakes. Often changes chords at incorrect time.	Plays with very few rhythm mistakes. Changes chords correctly most of the time.	Plays all rhythms as written. Changes chords correctly all of the time.
<b>RH TECHNIQUE/STRUMMING PATTERN</b>	Does not play with correct strumming patterns. Right hand (RH) technique is very poor.	Often plays with incorrect strumming pattern. RH technique is satisfactory.	Plays with correct strumming pattern most of the time. RH technique is good.	Plays with correct strumming pattern all of the time. RH technique is superior.
<b>STEADY TEMPO</b>	Tempo is not controlled. Fluctuations in pulse are very common.	Pulse is often uncontrolled and tempo is not maintained throughout.	Student demonstrates a good awareness of pulse and tempo; minimal problems occur.	Superb control of pulse and tempo.
<b>DISTINGUISHABLE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS</b>	Student is unprepared.	Student is unprepared in several passages.	Student is prepared with few mistakes; is confident throughout performance.	Student is very prepared, and performs with ease.

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 I have read, I understand, and I agree to the course syllabus and all course expectations:

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

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please cut on dotted line and return this portion to Ms. Hernández-Catá by Wednesday, September 9th\*\***