

# **Guitar 2A&B**

## **MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL 2015-2016**

**Instructor:** Ms. Isabel Hernández-Catá (aka Ms. H-C)

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

### **Course Description & Objectives:**

This course provides a forum for intermediate and advanced guitarists to develop the fundamental skills learned in Guitar I. Students with a high level of interest and ability in guitar will interpret and perform music representing a variety of styles and genres. Students will develop facility with both tablature and standard music notation. Students will demonstrate understanding and apply concepts of music theory and participate in performances and at least one required public performance. Students will be assessed on both melodic and rhythmic playing. Playing assignments will be in both group and individual formats and opportunities for large ensemble playing, writing and arranging will also be provided.

### **Materials Used:**

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 musical scores (provided by the teacher) and to have a pencil in class each day.**

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

- Students are expected to treat 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.
- **Computers** are to be used only as assigned by the teacher. Students may not use them to access e-mail or to do work for other classes.

- Students are expected to keep all handouts, worksheets, lecture notes, etc. organized and easily accessible in a single binder.
- All student work must adhere to the MBHS policy for academic honesty (see planbook for details). Students will not receive credit for plagiarized work.
- Kindly refrain from talking and or making disruptive noise during instructional time. There will be class time allotted for group collaboration.
- 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!

**Grading:**

Students will be asked to demonstrate their mastery of course objectives through formative and summative assignments such as:

- ♫ Periodic quizzes and other assessments allowing students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts of music theory, history, notation, appreciation, and musicianship
- ♫ 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)

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

In Guitar 2 class reteaching/reassessing occurs on a daily basis. In accordance with the MCPS grading policy students may replay assigned music after consultation/reteaching with the teacher. Final projects and recitals also may not be reassessed.

Written homework will be assigned somewhat 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.

Assignments, deadlines, grades and other helpful information will be posted on Edline.

**The Winter Concert** will be a major summative assessment in Quarter 2 and participation is required by all Guitar 2 students. It will be held the evening of **Thursday, December 17**, with a final rehearsal during the afternoon. Please make every effort to plan family activities accordingly and contact Miss Hernandez-Cata if you need assistance in being excused from other activities in order to attend.

### Sample Guitar Playing Assessment Rubric

Category	1-3 pts	4-6 pts	7-9 pts	10 pts
<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 accurately.
<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. Steady tempo achieved in simple passages only.	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 expressively and 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 remove and return to Ms. Hernández-Catá by Friday, September 9th\*\***