

**Dixon Middle School Beginning Guitar
Disclosure Statement
Ms. Christy Giblon, Instructor**

The beginning guitar class will be learning the basics of acoustic guitar. This class is designed for students with little or no guitar experience. Students will learn fundamentals of music reading as well as basic chords, strums, and finger patterns. Students will also study and perform various styles of music including folk and popular songs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Giblon at (801) 374-4980 ext. 1417 or email at christygi@provo.edu

Class Rules

- Be prepared and on time
- Follow directions
- Keep mouth and hands free of any gum, candy, food, or beverages
- Show respect for teacher, peers, equipment, and room
- No Hall Passes except for extreme emergencies

Materials Needed

- Acoustic Guitar (amps will not be allowed)
- Book – HOTS First Year Guitar
- Music Folder (will be provided for you)
- Pencil

Fees

There is a class fee of \$12.00
Music Replacement \$1.00 per page
Lost/damaged Book \$16.00
Lost Folder \$5.00
School Guitar Rental \$40.00

We have books available for students to check out at no charge. However, it is recommended that students buy their own book. We will place a book order during the first week for any students who wish to purchase the book through the school.

Grading Criteria

-25% Daily Participation

Students are expected to be present and participate in all class activities. There will be 10 points awarded each day for fully participating in all class activities. Students who are tardy or who are not fully participating will lose a portion of their participation points.

-10% Daily Preparation

The materials listed above will be used in class every day. Coming to class without materials will result in a loss of points from this grade category.

-40% Performance Assessments/Concerts

Students will be evaluated on materials presented in class and materials assigned for home practice. There will be a combination of group and solo performance assessments. **We will have a concert at the end of the semester that is required and will be worth 100 points in this grade category.**

-25% Written assignments and tests

Written assignments and tests will be given as needed to reinforce basic music theory and reading skills. Written work must be turned in by due date in order to receive full credit.

iTime

iTime open practice will be available once we begin having iTime as a school. We have days each week that are enrichment practice days. This means that if a student is passing all classes and does not have a stamp to attend another class, they can come in the band room and practice independently. This is a great option to supplement home practice and to practice with friends. We will have at least one iTime day each week that is a dedicated music help day. This is a good time to come in and get additional help or retake playing tests.

Practice Tips

1. Schedule a time that you can practice and make it a part of your routine every day.
2. Practice in a quiet place that is free from distractions such as the telephone or television.
3. Use a metronome (available at local and online music stores) to practice keeping a steady beat.
4. Start with a 10-15 minute warm-up (examples of appropriate warm-ups will be demonstrated in class)
5. Practice exercises to build your musical skills such as scales, finger pattern drills, and counting exercises.
6. Break challenging music into small “bite-sized” pieces. Once you have mastered a few small sections (4-6 measures), combine them to work on a larger section (12-16 measures).
7. Practice slowly and carefully. Make sure that you have completely mastered the correct notes and rhythms before playing a section at a faster tempo. Slow and accurate is better than fast and sloppy!
8. Practice performing for family and friends. This will help you to overcome performance anxiety or “stage-fright”.

Tips for Parents

1. Help students schedule a daily practice time. A consistent routine is important to developing musicians.
2. Read through the practice tips with your child and encourage him/her to use them.
3. Ask your child to play parts of their assignment for you. Provide positive feedback and acknowledge improvements.
4. Attend local concerts and other musical events with your child.
5. An instrument of good quality is crucial to student success! Beware of poor quality instruments sold at discount retail chains and online. Many of these instruments that are available at “too good to be true” prices are very difficult to play due to poor materials and construction. Check with Ms. Giblon for recommendations of reputable instruments and instrument dealers. Often good quality used instruments are available for less than the cost of a new, poor quality instrument.
6. Make sure that your child’s instrument is properly cared for and that it is stored in a place where it will be safe from siblings or pets. Do not allow your child to leave their instrument in the car! Extreme heat or cold will damage instruments.