

THERON L. SWAINSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019-2020



School-Wide Rules (Safety, Organization, Achievement, Respect)

1. Keep food and drink in the cafeteria
2. Keep hands, feet, objects, and unkind words to yourself
3. Hats, unacceptable clothing, hoop earrings and other nuisance items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian. Personal grooming and hygiene practices are to be taken care of before school and NOT during instruction time. This includes any application of fragrances including perfumes, deodorants, hair gels or lotions. This also includes hair styling through the use of combs or brushes during class.
4. Regulation 5136 states: The use of personal cell phones, beepers, pagers or any other electronic communication devices is prohibited on all district school campuses during the instructional day. As long as use is not disruptive, students may use these devices during scheduled lunch periods and while on the bus. These devices must remain off during instructional time including and any time between classes. These items will be confiscated if used other than the times indicated above.
5. Place all litter in trash cans
6. Students will be prepared and ready for instruction daily
7. Refrain from chewing gum on campus
8. Show respect for yourself, others, and school property

THUNDERBIRD NORMS

1. No one has the right to hurt another person.
2. Education and the classroom are essential priorities.
3. Show pride in your school.
4. Always act as a respectful lady or gentleman.
5. Never behave in a way to misrepresent yourself, your family, your peers, or your school.

BEHAVIOR- Progressive Discipline

Tardy Policy

Course Expectations

Guitar

- 1st. Verbal Warning
- 2nd. Phone Home + Teacher Consequence
- 3rd. Parent Conference with Counselors
- 4th. Social Worker Intervention
- 5th. Dean's Referral

- 1st Warning to the student
- 2nd Parent Contact
- 3rd. Lunch Detention
- 4th. After School Detention
- 5th After School Beautification Project
- 6th Star On Program

Guitar Course Expectations

PLEASE PRINT OR DOWNLOAD PAGES 1-5 FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

PLEASE PRINT PAGE 6 AND SEND IT BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.

Textbook: Students will be provided daily use of a classroom textbook to use at school and supplementary materials to practice at home. These materials contain tunes and guitar exercises that will complement music assignments given in class. **Each student will be provided with these mentioned materials as long as the course fee has been satisfied. Lost or destroyed classroom textbooks cannot be purchased from the front desk.**

Price to Replace Textbooks: Alfred's Basic Guitar Method consumable workbook \$10
Additional smaller texts range from \$10 to \$20 per text
Course Fee \$40.00 due at the start of the school year

Course Description: Elective course focusing on the fundamentals of music using the guitar as the primary focus.

I. Course goals

- To develop correct playing posture and hand position
- To utilize the note reading process as a foundation for learning
- To understand and apply strategic note reading skills to aid comprehension and fluency
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate different musical styles
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate information related to significant events in music history
- To develop the skills to communicate orally
- To apply effective music research strategies
- To practice strategic study/learning behaviors
- To build respect and tolerance for diverse music by listening to a variety of musical styles from different cultures
- To develop the fundamentals of listening to music as a process for learning
- To practice appropriate rehearsal technique
- To employ the common musical vocabulary needed to perform a successful concert program
- To play various types of guitar repertoire effectively in and outside the classroom setting
- To expand students knowledge of various musical forms
- To reinforce the students use of guitar terminology
- To listen to the masterworks of music as a springboard to a more comprehensive learning experience
- To learn open chords and accompaniments and melodies
- To learn proper strumming, finger style and picking techniques
- To learn basic guitar repair and maintenance approaches

II. Course syllabus This course involves activities that directly correlate with playing the guitar from established method books. These materials contain tunes, exercises and drills aimed at enhancing the student's abilities on the instrument. Success in the course is determined by the student's willingness to practice the material covered in class at home on their own personal guitar.

III. Performances

- a. Each student will be required to take part in a minimum of 2 performances during the academic year. These performances take place during the evening and exist outside the regular academic day. These events are mandatory for all students enrolled in guitar and represent a significant percentage of the student's grade point average for this class. Students who miss a performance and are unexcused will not move on to the intermediate or advanced level. It should be recognized that performances are a privilege for students and not a right. Students whose academic standing is below an A or B status in this class or within their core subject areas are eligible for forfeiture of their performance duties.

IV. Student Responsibilities Regarding Performances

Students must arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the concert with their music and in the proper uniform. The Swainston guitar uniform is as follows: Black collared guitar shirt with matching black slacks and black dress shoes for both boys and girls. Students not wearing the designated uniform will not be eligible for performance. Students must learn their parts long before a performance takes place. This ensures the maximum value from the experience for each participant. Students are also required for the set up and tear down of materials essential to the execution of a performance. Examples of this

include the guitars, with their cases, stereo equipment and cables being moved to and from storage areas before and after the event.

V. Field Trips

- a. The advanced guitar classes will be expected to perform during Festival Season at The Las Vegas Academy in downtown Las Vegas. Permission slips and more information will be given out no later than the end of October.
- b. Students who have not returned the required forms by the due date will not be able to attend. We must plan for buses, chaperones, and lunches. This requires that the forms be turned in by the date which will be provided in the information packet. Inappropriate behavior or inadequate academic standing will automatically disqualify a student from attending Festival or any performance based activity.

VI. Additional Course activities

- a. Group Projects and Activities Using Significant Composers
- b. Independent Guitar projects
- c. Listening and responding to a variety of musical styles both on and off the guitar
- d. Music History Projects
- e. Music Journal writing
- f. Short Essays Using Music Based Prompts

VII. Evaluation

- a. Criteria for arriving at students' grades

i. Assessments	50 %
ii. Projects/Essays	30 %
iii. Classwork /Interactive Notebooks	15 %
iv. Homework	5 %

- b. **Semester Grades**

- Quarter 1 & 2 = 45 % - Semester Exam = 10%
- Quarter 3 & 4 = 45% - Semester Exam = 10%
- The final grade for the year will be an average of the grades from semester one and semester two.

- c. **Explanation of student grades**

- i. A 90%-100%
- ii. B 80%-89%
- iii. C 70%-79%
- iv. D 60%-69%
- v. F 50%

- d. **How and when students will be advised of their grades**

- i. Parents and students are urged to check the *Infinite Campus* Web site for current grades.
- ii. *Infinite Campus* can be accessed through the Swainston MS or CCSD Web sites
 - <http://swainstonms.com>
 - www.ccsd.net/parents/infinite campus
- iii. Passwords for the *Infinite Campus* system will be handed out the third week of school.
- iv. Grades will be posted to *Infinite Campus* several times a week.
- v. Grades may be posted in the classroom by student number several times a quarter.

e. Citizenship/Behavior Expectations

- i. Students are expected to be prepared to work. This includes being prepared with homework and all necessary supplies, as well as being prepared to focus on learning.
- ii. Students are to remain focused on their academic tasks in the classroom. Studies show that teachers waste huge amounts of time-keeping a student on-task when they have to remind students to stop talking, stay in their seats, and complete their assignments.
- iii. Students are expected to treat themselves, others, and SMS property with the utmost respect. Students will speak politely to me, to each other, and to all faculty, staff, and visitors of SMS. The classroom and other areas of campus will remain neat and clean.
- iv. Students are expected to follow all school rules and classroom rules. This includes the dress code. Students must remove outerwear and backpacks and tuck in their shirts before entering the classroom.
- v. Students with any missing assignments will not be able to receive an “outstanding” for citizenship. Students with more than two missing assignments will receive a “needs improvement” for citizenship.

f. Late Work/Playing Checkups

- i. Playing checkups are always given with a due date, usually on Fridays. If a playing checkup is not completed, it may be practiced at home and the student may play the item on the next day.
- ii. Playing checkups performed after the due date for any reason other than an excused absence will lose one letter grade for each day it is late.
 - One Week late – maximum score = B
 - Two Weeks late – maximum score = C
 - Three Weeks late – maximum score = D
 - Four Weeks or later – maximum score = F
- iii. Each teacher reserves the right to vary the Late Work policy to address individual situations.

g. Make-up Work for Absences

- i. Students are responsible for assignments given during their absence.
- ii. Make-up work can be found in a designated area of the classroom. Requests for make-up work must be done before or after school. Requests for teachers to gather or identify missing assignments cannot be completed during class as this takes away from instructional time for all students.
- iii. CCSD policy states that students have **three** days to complete make-up work for each day of absence.

h. Absences/Excused Absence Notes

All absences are now considered unexcused as of the new policy implemented on 8/13/2018.

CCSD policy states that a student with 18 or more unexcused absences in one class period in one semester must be given a grade of F for the semester, regardless of the number or quality of the completed assignments.

i. Homework and assignments on the Internet.

Periodically, students may be assigned homework that can only be done on the Internet. Students will be given time in class to complete such assignments. For students who need additional time, arrangements can be made to use the Internet in the library or in the teacher's room before or after school.

II. Course Supplies

- **Music Composition Book-** One-hundred page composition books will be used as a music journal and as a place for taking notes throughout the course of the year. We anticipate that students will need approximately one music composition book a semester for music class.
- **Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper-** Assignments that are to be handed in must be completed on loose-leaf paper unless the assignment sheet states otherwise. No assignments on spiral-edged paper will be accepted, not even perforated spiral paper without the “teeth.” Assignments submitted on spiral paper will be returned must be redone to receive a grade.
- **Writing Utensils-** Assignments that are turned in may be written in blue or black pen or pencil. Students may write in pen in their journals. However, students should own enough pencils for edits and changes to sheet music as this is still the preferred method amongst music educators.
- **USB Flash Drive -**We will be doing research and writing essays on the computer several times throughout the year. Students will want to save their work in order to revise and edit at a later date. A USB flash drive will allow them to use any computer with a USB port. A USB flash drive can usually be purchased for less than ten dollars; students will not need anything larger than a 1G USB flash drive.
- **Supplies-** Each student will be supplied with a nylon string acoustic guitar for classroom use only. In other words, the instruments stay in house and do not leave campus. Students need to come to class prepared with the necessary supplies; they will not be sent out of class to purchase supplies. Teachers may have some limited supplies, but these are frequently purchased with the teacher’s funds rather than supplied by the school district. Students who arrive unprepared will find that doing so affects their participation grade for the day.

III. **Explanation of fees**

- There is a \$40.00 for this course to be paid at the beginning of the year or whenever the student enters the course, whichever comes first. Students with unpaid fees may be withdrawn from the course.

IV. **Teacher’s hours of availability**

- Teachers are available for conference before school. Please contact the main office (799-4860) to schedule a formal conference or to leave me a message. Phone calls and e-mails will be returned as soon as possible. In general, e-mail is the quickest way to reach a teacher. Please include your child’s name in the subject line.
- The teacher’s e-mail address will be provided the first day of class.

Guitar 6, 7th and 8th Grade
Instructor- Mr. Bradley

Class Period _____

Student's Name:

Student Number:

Student:

- ☐ I have read and understand the school rules listed above.
- ☐ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- ☐ I have read and understand the course expectations provided for this course.

Signature of Student

Date

Parent/Guardian:

- ☐ I have read and understand the school rules pertaining to my child.
- ☐ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- ☐ I have read and understand what is expected of my child in this course.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

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visit us at ccsd.net/schools/swainston

