

# Guitar Syllabus

Casteel High School

Teacher: Victoria Choin

Room: Orchestra

## Ways to Communicate

**E-mail:** E-mail is the best way to communicate with me. You can email me with any questions you have at [choin.victoria@cusd80.com](mailto:choin.victoria@cusd80.com)

## Class Contracts

Students and parents are required to read, sign and return the inserted contracts.

- Guitar contract
  - This contract is to make certain that both students and parents are aware of the responsibilities involved in being part of the class and have read this handbook.

## Technique Books

The technique book is our textbook for guitar. It can be purchased on Amazon or at a local music store.

- **Essential Elements for Guitar Book 1**

## Playing Tests

Playing tests and quizzes will be given several times per quarter. These are simple tests that assess understanding of class materials.

If your student misses their playing test, quiz, or chair test, they will need to schedule a makeup test with me. For all tests and quizzes, they will have 5 days from when they return to makeup the test. If no makeup occurs within 5 days, a 0 will be placed in the gradebook.

Students will have the opportunity to retake one test or quiz throughout the quarter for the chance at a better score.

Playing quizzes are based on 4 categories: Rhythm, Technique, Accuracy and Posture. A rubric will be used to grade the tests so that the students can see what areas they need to improve in.

## Practice Check

Practicing your instrument is considered homework for guitar class. It is expected that students practice **50 minutes** a week. During class, practice checks may be announced to determine if students are doing their homework, which is like a pop quiz. If it becomes apparent in class that 50% of students are not practicing, then practice logs will be sent home and be required to be signed by parents every week.

## School Instrument Check Out

We have 30 class guitars for students to use in class. These are not to be taken home and must remain in the classroom. If you have a personal guitar that you would like to use in class, you may leave it in the classroom during the school day if there is space available.

## Classroom Policies

### **Technology:**

With the 1:1 technology initiative, it is the responsibility of the student to bring their fully charged laptop to school every day. Technology is a tool no different than a pencil. Like all school supplies, students are expected to have the supplies needed to learn. Most likely, the orchestra classroom will not be using laptops. Laptops will be used on days there is a substitute teacher.

**ALL PHONES MUST STAY IN BACKPACKS OR BE PUT IN THE PHONE POCKET IN THE CLASSROOM.** Phones are a distraction to the learning environment and should not be used in the classroom during class time.

### **Discipline Protocol:**

It is the expectation that students hold themselves to high standards. The teacher will address students who are not meeting these expectations. This is the standard progression for typical classroom bad behaviors:

- a warning
- a warning with a phone call

- a Parent-teacher conference
- a referral.

Our goal is to work with families to ensure that all students have a safe and focused learning environment.

### **Tardy Protocol:**

Students are expected to be in their seats when the bell rings and ready to learn. If a student is tardy to class, teachers will follow this process to rectify students being late:

- a warning on their first and second offense.
- the teacher will email / call home.
- Notify Attendance Interventionist and email / call home.
- On the fifth offense, the teacher will refer the student to our Attendance Interventionist, who can work with families and assign Saturday school if necessary.
- The teacher has the option to provide their own lunch detention at their discretion instead of writing a conduct referral.

### **Absences:**

Students who have excused absences have at least one day every day they are absent to make up the work they missed. Excessive absences can result in the loss of a credit for the course.

### **Grading Categories:**

- 20 pts: Weekly Participation. 5 pts per day. No instrument= Loss of all points for the day
- 25 pts: Playing Quizzes
- 25 pts: Practice Checks
- 10-50 pts: Homework Assignments
- 30 pts: Written Tests
- 100 pts: Final Exam

**Per Department Policy, semester grades are calculated according to the 40/40/20 formula.**

**Letter Grade Distribution: A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F Below 59%**

**Food and Drink:**

There is no food or drink allowed in the classroom except water.

**Tutoring:**

If your student is struggling, they can make an appointment with me to get extra help.

**Finals:**

Finals are not given early. Absent students will receive a zero until they can take the final.