

**Course Syllabus
Pueblo East High School**

Teacher: Andrew Watson

Course Title: Guitar

Colorado Music Standards: Performance Pathway

Music Standard #1: Expression of Music

1. Perform accurately and expressively, demonstrating self-evaluation and personal interpretation at the minimal level of 3 on the difficulty rating scale
2. Perform music accurately and expressively at the first reading at the minimal level of 2 on the difficulty rating scale
3. Participate appropriately as an ensemble member while performing music at the minimal level of 3 on the difficulty rating scale
4. Demonstrate requisite performance skill sets appropriate for postsecondary Pursuits

Music Standard #2: Creation of Music

1. Improvise a stylistically appropriate vocal or instrumental solo over a given harmonic progression
2. Compose complex music in several distinct styles
3. Arrange selections for voices and/or instruments other than those for which they were written in ways that preserve and enhance the expressive effect of the music

Music Standard #3: Theory of Music

1. Interpretation of musical elements and ideas
2. Classification by genre, style, historical period or culture
3. Evaluation of music using critical, informed analysis

Music Standard #4: Aesthetic Valuation of Music

1. Practice of appropriate behavior during cultural activities
2. Evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of musical performances
3. Development of criteria-based aesthetic judgment of artistic process and products in music
4. Knowledge of available musical opportunities for continued musical growth and professional development

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS:

This class is designed as a beginning guitar course consisting of 9th – 12th graders. Students will play out of a beginning guitar book or sheet music they provide themselves. Students with some experience with the guitar are also welcome to take the class. Experienced players will, for the most part, be studying independently with guidance from the instructor. Music standards 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be stressed daily. Students at the beginning level will be required to purchase a beginning level book. The music literature studied will be fitted to the capabilities of the students and will also meet music standards. The difficulty level of the music will increase as the year progresses and the student's guitar skills grow

COURSE OUTLINE:

Lessons will begin with very basic skills to determine where students will start in their book. Students will need to provide their own guitar and will work at their own pace, incorporating major and minor scales as well as major, minor, and 7 chords. Key signatures, musical terms, musical signs, scales, note names, and musical expression terms will be introduced. The literature selected both from the book and elsewhere will incorporate and support these ideas and will progress gradually in difficulty and sophistication. It is preferred that students bring acoustic guitars to limit noise. If electric guitars must be played, amps with headphone capabilities and headphones will be required.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student will be required to learn 2 songs per week. As the difficulty level rises more time will be allotted to prepare a piece. Students will be encouraged to work at their own pace but the pace must remain steady and time must be spent on task. Students must bring their instrument to class daily. Failure to bring your guitar to class will result in penalties. A warning will be given the first time a guitar is not in class. The second time a written assignment will be given. The third time and thereafter a song will be taken off the student's grading record.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment is accomplished in several ways. Performance assessment is done on a daily basis. Students will be monitored every day on their work and progress during practice time. Students will also be assessed 4 times a week on performance as 2 pieces must be learned and performed for the instructor weekly. On an individual basis, students will be given written assessments on musical terms. Verbal assessments will be given from time to time to measure student understanding of the instrument and the music they are working on.

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS:

Excellent attendance is expected! If a student is not in class to practice their instrument then skills cannot improve. If a student is not present to complete the goal of 2 songs per week, the given grade will prove to be low.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS:

Exemplary individual behavior is absolutely necessary in this class. This type of course requires self-control to accomplish the goals set. Inability to behave will result in less practice time and ultimately a low grade. If one person is being disruptive, it is likely that more than one are being distracted and deprived of valuable practice time. A student who is not cooperating will be given one warning. The second infraction in the period receives detention and no points for the day. The third infraction in the same period results in a trip to the assistant principal's office. On any subsequent day, there is a warning and steps two and three will be used. Excellent behavior is also expected at all performances. Please have respect for your fellow classmates.

GRADING SCALE:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59% or below = F

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

It is required that all parents or guardians read all of this material and then sign and return it to me. Parents are encouraged to call me at school (549-7245) or email at andrew.watson@pueblocitieschools.us to express suggestions or concerns. Please encourage your students to continue their musical growth at home.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION:

Hope to be getting the opportunity to start integrating technology into our music department in the form of music writing software and eventually some "Smart Music" practice programs. East also has electric pianos for those who wish to practice piano skills. These are available during piano class, after school, or by special request.

SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS, TUTORING, AND ENRICHMENT:

Students are encouraged to participate in any musical groups here in the school or community. I am willing to stay after school and will be readily available during Eagle Hour periods to offer any help I can. Students are also encouraged to participate in all musical and stage productions at East.

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Your signature says that you have read the syllabus and understand its content.

Guitar

Student's name (printed)

Student's signature

Parent/Guardian signature
