Course Expectations and Standards

- **Arrive** in the classroom on time with materials needed. Prompt attendance to class is extremely important, as class begins when the bell rings. Guitar classes do take some time to set up. I expect all students to be ready for instruction no later than 3 minutes after the tardy bell. Leave guitar cases in locker or in back-room storage.

- **Participate** in the lesson and all classroom activities and assignments.

- **Follow Directions.** Follow all class/school rules and instructions from the teacher. I will always have the daily agenda & Learning Targets posted. You will become familiar with the routine and know what to expect.

- **Complete** assignments/projects on time as given; both written and playing.

- **Practice** your guitar!! Spend some time on your music and what we are learning. Have fun with it! Make it an important part of your life and daily routine.

- **Be responsible.** Keep all music, handouts, and any/all important materials, etc. and have them available for class. Please have your Guitar Binder available at all times.

- **Be Patient.** Playing and learning the guitar takes patience and perseverance.

Please **contribute** to a positive classroom environment. (Our class rules)

- Listen while instructions are being given, please do not talk or PLAY.
- Remain seated. Please do not roam around during class time.
- Remain in music room or assigned practice area. **Do not roam elsewhere.**
- NO leaving the room before the bell rings or leaving the room during class without permission.
- Put your guitar away at the end of class in the appropriate locker. Then, stack chairs and music stands. You will always be given plenty of time to pack up before the bell rings.
- Practice rooms are for practice only. Groups will be assigned to practice areas.
- No food (especially nut products), drinks, or gum. Water is fine.
- Always show respect for all: the teachers, students, and equipment (especially school guitars, which we have to fundraise to be able to buy).
- Do not use the restroom during instructional time (unless it is an emergency).
- Be present - do not use electronic devices or headphones during class unless you are given permission to do so for a project.
- You need your guitar binder and a guitar pick every day. Please come prepared.
- If there are any concerns or problems- please bring them to Mrs. Carlson or Mr. Martini’s attention. They will help out the best they can!
- Be prepared to work with others (in groups).

**Consequences in regards to above rules:**
1. Verbal warning(s)  
2. Removal from class & On-site detention (w/ parental notification)  
3. Administrative/Counseling dept. intervention and meet w/ parents  
4. Removal from music department
Course Description

Beginning Guitar is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on learning how to play the guitar. No musical experience is needed to be in this class. Students will study the many styles and techniques that are found in contemporary guitar playing. Students will learn how to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn applicable music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist. The course will also present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. There will also be a strong songwriting and recording component. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player. The goal of this course is to create a “lifelong” musician. It is the intention of this course to create a desire for the individual to continue playing the guitar!

Homework

“At Vista del Lago, homework is defined as academic work which requires time and effort outside the classroom. The purpose of homework shall be to provide independent practice, preparation and extended learning opportunities necessary to successfully master course content. Homework also supports the development of regular study habits, time management, responsibility and self-discipline—all skills essential for success in high school and beyond. Consequently, it is imperative that parents set guidelines and expectations that insure homework completion.

When homework is used to provide practice, preparation and extended learning opportunities, it may be included in the student’s formative assessments grades. Homework completion will also be part of the student’s work habits and reported in his/her citizenship grade.”

Make-Ups & Re-Takes

“Students with excused absences are responsible for meeting with the teacher and making arrangements to make assignments. Any work assigned before the student’s absence and due on the day of the absence is due the first day the student returns to school unless other arrangements have been made. For any new work assigned, the teacher will allow the student a minimum of one day for each day missed to make up any work assigned during a student’s absence. Regardless, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with the teacher to arrange for make-up work. Students are allowed to re-take any playing assignment &/or projects.”

Method of Evaluation

- Students will be GRADED on the following:
  - In-class DAILY PERFORMANCE
  - Individual ability, progress, and mastery of course content (performance tests)
    - Formative Assessment (30% of grade).
    - Summative Assessment (70% of grade).
  - All other classroom assignments/tests/finals
    - listening, playing, history, theory, etc.
  - Group Projects: students will earn their OWN individual grade on projects. There will
never be a “group grade.”

Materials Needed (See Mrs. Carlson if you need help obtaining or finding any of these items).

- Having your own guitar is ideal. The music dept. has some guitars to issue out for the term.
- Small 3-ring binder with TABS/subject dividers. Tabs can be store bought or DIY (post it notes work great for this purpose).
- Electric Tuner (requested) ($10-30)
  - I recommend a CLIP ON ACOUSTIC GUITAR TUNER
- STRINGS
  - Strings can be purchased at Nicholson Music Co. in Folsom or any local music store.
  - If you have your own guitar- please have extra strings available. I will have replacement strings as well.
  - Those who borrow a school guitar for the term: I kindly ask for you to consider purchasing one set of medium acoustic guitar strings. We change the strings on all school guitars at the end of term.
- Guitar picks: medium picks are preferred
  - picks are usually around .25 per pick or 4 for $1.00
  - Picks can be purchased at Nicholson Music Co. in Folsom, and we occasionally sell Vista Guitar Nation picks (4 for $1)

Technology and Dishonesty Policies

Cell phones, headphones, MP3 players, etc. are not appropriate during instructional time and individual or group practice time without permission from the teacher. If these items are out during inappropriate times, students will lose points from their Daily Assessment Grade (if their technology use is preventing them from practicing their guitar or demonstrating skills) and Citizenship marks. Further violations will result in device confiscation, parent contact, and administration involvement. In addition, students are not allowed to use music department printers to print out homework for other classes.

The Vista del Lago Academic Dishonesty Policy will be strictly enforced. Honest behavior is expected from all students. Any unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, forgery, theft, vandalism, being in unauthorized areas of the building, or other dishonest behavior will result in disciplinary action. The consequences followed can be found in the Student Handbook.

REMEMBER: You are here to learn all you can about the Guitar!!

Vista Teacher Website

Mrs. Carlson’s school web page will include the following: course expectations, units of study, projects, links to pertinent websites, contact information, and all music department events. Parents can access class assignments and grades directly from my grade book by going to the Vista website www.fcusd.org/vdlhs. All assignments, projects, and important events will be posted on this site.

Contact Information

Mrs. Elicia Carlson  
Vista del Lago High School - Music Director  
916-294-2410  x. 410317  
ecarlson@fcusd.org  
eliciacarlson@gmail.com
Music Department Grading Policy

GRADING PHILOSOPHY: In a balanced assessment system, both *Formative* and *Summative* assessments are essential as tools for gathering and reporting student achievement. See below for definitions of both types of assessments as well as how each category will be weighted in the gradebook. The entire music department uses a 6 point grade scale to report meaningful information on student achievement. The grading rubric that most assignments will be based upon will be passed out in class and posted on my webpage.

**Formative Assessments**
- *Formative assessments:* used for practice - skill development - guiding instruction
- Will make up no more than 30% of a student’s final grade and will include any graded learning assessments used as a diagnostic assessment of student’s learning.
  - **Examples:** Daily In-Class assessment, daily demonstration of skills, etc.

**Summative Assessments**
- *Summative assessments:* used as a final measure of student learning at the end of a unit.
- Will make up no less than 70% of a student’s grade. These assessments are end of unit measures and major performance tasks. Summative assessments occur AFTER a student has had sufficient instruction and practice and is prepared to demonstrate mastery.
  - **Examples:** Final Project Performances, Tests, Midterms, Finals, etc.

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is reported separately from academic grades. Course citizenship includes both work habits and attitude/behavior. Good citizenship is vital to a positive, productive school environment. Because of this, students who receive two or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks on a grade report may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics, dances, rallies, nonacademic music and theater performances, and club activities. Please note that excessive lates, tardies, and absences will result in lowered citizenship marks.

FINAL EXAM

Final examinations are mandatory at Vista del Lago High School and will not be scheduled early for any reason. Students who miss their final exams will be issued a grade of *Incomplete* for the semester. Students are required to make-up missed final exams during the first 2 weeks of the following semester in order to replace the *I* or *Incomplete* with a letter grade. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher to arrange a make-up appointment. Failure to do so will result in a failing semester grade or of a grade calculated without final exam included.

*Please read this handbook and return the slip below by Friday of the first week of class.*

“*We have read and understand the 2019-2020 Vista Guitar Handbook and agree to all of the course policies listed within.*”

Student Name (print) _______________________________ Grade: 9 / 10 / 11 / 12

Student Signature ____________________________________ Date: __________

Parent Signature ____________________________________ Date: __________

PARENT Email ________________________________________