

Guitar I  
Fort Myers High School, 2009-2010  
Matt Koller, Instructor

**CLASS DESCRIPTION**

This basic guitar class is open to all students at Fort Myers High School. Students will learn: (1) proper body alignment/positioning, (2) the fundamentals of music theory, (3) basic chords, (4) how to play folk and popular songs, (5) various strum patterns, (6) proper concert etiquette, (7) self-discipline, and (8) how to perform alone & with others in a concert setting.

**SUPPLIES**

Students will be expected to bring the following to class **every day**:

- Modern Guitar Method Book 1 (to be checked out from Library) ISBN 978-078661369-4
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guitar Method Book 1 ISBN 0-89898-727-X (to be checked out from Library)
- Music staff paper
- A pencil to keep inside the folder
- A guitar in a case
- A standard guitar tuner

**GRADING POLICY**

**Class Participation**

Students will be expected to come to class prepared, with all required materials. They should be prepared to actively participate in the day's lesson, as well as refrain from playing during the teacher's instruction. Students are expected to practice each day and come to class prepared to play the assigned material for study. Class participation may include theory lessons, note-taking, private practice, performance rehearsal, technique demonstration, etc. The student will be awarded a weekly participation points.

**Quizzes/Tests**

Students will take part in periodic quizzes which will evaluate the skills/knowledge acquired in class and from at-home practice. It is imperative that students are present on the days of quizzes, as there will be no make-up given. At the end of the grading period, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Tests will be given less frequently; however will assess the same techniques and skills developed in and out of the classroom setting.

**Performance Participation**

Performance is an important aspect of music as a performing art. Students will take part in a class performance once every grading period. The students will be given the opportunity to perform solo (and will be expected to sing) or ensemble pieces. The student will be graded based on overall technique, note/chord accuracy, strumming consistency, finger agility, etc. Rubrics will be available in preparation for these performances.

**Recitals**

Weekly or bi-weekly recitals on assignments will be held in class. Students will be graded on a rubric they are given.

**Written Assignments**

Some written assignments concerning music theory, chordal/finger charts, reflections on performances, etc. will be required for this class. These assignments will be given periodically throughout the grading period. Students are expected to complete these assignments in a timely fashion.

## **USEFUL RESOURCES**

[www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) ← great music theory/ear training website

The White Pages of Guitar Tablature

The White Pages of Bass Guitar Tablature