

BEGINNING GUITAR HANDBOOK

MR. RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR OF BANDS, MUSIC THEORY, GUITAR

Welcome to Beginning Guitar Class!



Welcome to an exciting new year at Timberline, and thanks for joining the Guitar Program at THS. This course will be filled with opportunities for you to learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques in order to become a successful beginning guitarist in the classical style.

This handbook should answer most of the

questions that you and your parents will have about being a part of this guitar class, as well as a member of the THS Music Department. If there is anything I have not answered here, please contact me with any questions or concerns that might arise.

My goal for each of you is that by the end of the end of the semester you will have mastered basic music reading and guitar playing skills as a result of the work we do together in this class. This is not a "Jam Out" class! We will be learning by-the-book classical guitar in an organized classroom ensemble fashion.

The most important

thing for you to know about studying a musical instrument is that your progress is directly proportional to how much time you spend practicing on your own. The more you play, the better you'll get.

This class will require dedicated practice and a high level of focus in class. I hope you enjoy!

—Mr. Rodriguez

◆ CONTACTING MR. RODRIGUEZ

BAND ROOM

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About Mr. Rodriguez...

I have been involved with music in some fashion since 1998 in the Boise area and I have been teaching since 2008 at THS. Prior to coming to THS, I worked with the Capital High band programs as an assistant and show designer for 5 years.

I started playing the saxophone in 5th grade, and began teaching myself to play guitar in shortly after. I received my Bachelor's in Music Education from Boise State University, and my Master's in Educa-

tion from the University of Idaho. Previously, I spent 3 years performing and teaching with the Seattle Cascades Drum and Bugle Corps, and working with other local high schools. I am also the director of the Timberline "Wolf Pack" Marching Unit (which performs at football halftime shows and various competitions) the THS Symphonic Band, and the THS Instrumental Jazz Ensembles. Teaching Music Theory/AP



Music Theory and Music Appreciation are also part of my teaching schedule. My hobbies include: music, of course! martial arts, outdoor recreation, lifetime sports, and travel.



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Your Personal Responsibilities



“IF YOU
ALWAYS DO
WHAT YOU’VE
ALWAYS DONE,
YOU’LL ALWAYS
GET WHAT
YOU’VE ALWAYS
GOTTEN.”

As Class Guitar is both an individual and a team activity, there are some things that we all need to do to make each day a success for everyone and to give us the opportunity to make a lot of progress every day that we meet together. Your personal responsibilities to each

member of the class include the following:

- Come prepared each day with your instrument, music and a sharpened pencil.
- Use good posture and hand positions when rehearsing, performing and practicing on your own.
- Always leave gum, food and drink outside the room.
- Always take good care of your instrument.
- Always have a cooperative and positive attitude.
- Always treat everyone else in the room with respect.
- Always give your best effort (even when you are struggling)!
- **ONLY PLAY WHEN YOU ARE ASKED TO BY MR. RODRIGUEZ.**
- **HAVE FUN!**

How Am I Graded?!

- Classroom Performance

Students use all materials necessary to accomplish daily lesson objectives
 Students play only assigned materials during class time
 Students complete group work and individual classroom assignments
 Students demonstrate proper playing techniques during class time

- Performance Grades/Skills Assessments

Students will perform assigned repertoire in groups and alone to demonstrate proficiency on the instrument
 Students will be graded on (at least) a rubric that points out areas
 There will be in-class performances (observe)

a weekly basis based on a that need to be worked on (possibly for other classes to

- Written Assignments/Quizzes

Students will be given written quizzes concerning music theory & guitar facts

- EOC (10%)

The Boise Schools grading scale is as follows:

90—100%	A
80—89%	B
70—79%	C
60—69%	D
Below 60%	F

Students can make up missed assignments when absences are excused. Students will be responsible to see Mr. Rodriguez the day they return to ask about what is to be made up and when it will be due.

Grading Scale for Beginning Guitar



Taking Care of Guitars

Musical instruments are expensive to buy, maintain and replace. It is critical that each of us knows the proper way to hold and protect our guitars.

NEVER LEAN YOUR GUITAR AGAINST A CHAIR OR A MUSIC STAND. If, for any reason, you need to leave your chair during class lay your guitar back in its case. If you'll notice the shape of the guitar, it has rounded edges which make them susceptible to falling over. Always lay your guitar down inside your case to prevent this!

Also, never ask your neigh-

bor to hold onto your guitar for you ("just for a second") because their hands are full with their own instrument! That is just asking for an accident to occur.

It would be good to keep a polishing cloth in your guitar case to allow you to clean off oily fingerprints and protect the finish of your guitar.

Once the instrument is in tune, do not adjust the tuners. It will keep you from possibly breaking a string.

A guitar is made of wood, but it is not a piece of furni-

ture. Please do not drape your upper body across it when it is sitting on your lap. Develop good habits now that will serve you well in your future playing.



Class Materials

Timberline does not have a stock of school-owned instruments. Each student will be responsible for renting or purchasing a beginning level acoustic guitar with nylon or steel strings. Nylon are easier on your fingers and ears.

If you have your own acoustic guitar, you may use it during class, including steel string guitars. No electric guitars will be used except for special projects. If you

don't have your own guitar yet, there are several stores with good deals on good instruments (see column to the right).

Everything we learn will transfer to other types of guitars!

If you have registered for guitar, then you have already paid the class fee at the beginning of the semester. This keeps us supplied with new strings and other

materials that we will be using in class.

You'll eventually need to have a guitar pick to bring with you each day. And remember: Always bring a **sharp pencil!**

Books That We'll Be Using

We'll be mainly studying from the book, **Essential Elements for Guitar - Book 1**. This book is available at most of the stores listed on the right, and you will need your own copy. You do not need the CD Version, but the CD Version is OK. We will also be using, on occasion, other books that I feel are a good approach to a new concept or allow us to get more practice on a particular concept,

strumming pattern or chord progression. Here is a list of some of the other materials, in case you are interested in purchasing your own copies:

- Jerry Snyder's Guitar School, Book 1
- Explore It!, by Nancy Marsters (Class Guitar Resources)
- Mastering the Guitar (Mel Bay Publishing)

- Also, we'll use a variety of guitar ensemble books as we play in small groups in class!

LOCAL STORES

WHERE YOU CAN

GET GUITARS &

ACCESSORIES:

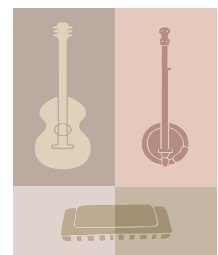
Dunkley Music
3410 N. Eagle Rd.
342-5549

Dorsey Music
5015 W. State
853-4141

Guitar Center
5777 Fairview
685-0505

Welch Music
12516 W Fairview
322-3388

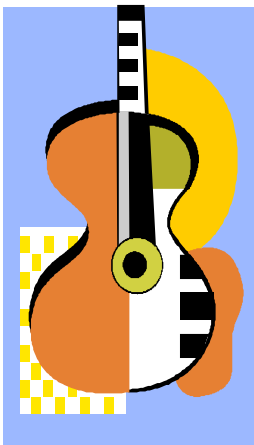
****Please avoid department stores (with musical instruments, you get what you pay for!)**





How Parents Can Help!

- Show an interest in your child’s study of music!
- Help them find a regular time each day to practice, without distractions!
- Encourage them to play for you OFTEN! Keep track of their progress and consistently encourage their efforts!
- Teach them the importance of having all guitar materials at school every day. Young adults tend to value the same things as the adults in their lives!
- Discuss with Mr. Rodriguez anything that may help him to better understand your student and meet his/her needs!



Eight Survival Tips (How Can I Stay on Track?!)

1. Ask Questions!

In a music class it is easy to fall behind. Always ask for help (but ask good questions, so I can help you better!).

2. Be Self-Motivated!

This is the key to good progress in studying a musical instrument. You have to be determined and not easily discouraged!

3. Organize Your Time!

Make practicing a part of your daily homework routine (you’ll probably lose track of time, once you get started!).

4. Help Each Other!

Remember, this is a “team effort”. You may know something the person next you does not, don’t keep it a secret! If you see someone struggling and you can help, do so at an appropriate time (like class free work time). Connect with those around you!

5. Practice!

The more you play, the better you’ll get. Also remember, *Practice Makes Permanent!* If you practice mistakes or

with bad posture and position, those things will be engrained. So, hold yourself to a high standard of excellence and you will succeed!

6. LISTEN!

You need to stay focused during class! Treat everything we discuss as new and important information! Learning audience skills is a big part of this class, as well as performing skills.

7. Keep Trying!

Everyone in this room is going to struggle with something this semester, don’t get frustrated or give up!

8. Have Fun!

We are so fortunate to be able to study music in school! Soak up this time and build your skills! Make every day a great one!

