

Point Loma High School
PLHS Guitar Handbook
2018-2019

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Point Loma Guitar Program is to provide students with an environment focused on the commitment to musical excellence. The program is also dedicated to the values of character, leadership, and responsibility through artistic development and training.

COURSE GOALS

- To develop the aesthetic sensitivity, musical knowledge, and independent ensemble performance skills of each ensemble member
- To develop higher level thinking required for complex reasoning, critical thinking, problem-solving and listening skills
- To promote and develop positive interactions such as teamwork, cooperation, leadership, acceptance of differences, discipline, and creativity
- To enhance thinking in all other subjects while maintaining the integrity of music as its own subject

Guitar is a year-long standards-based elective class that is open to all 9th-12th graders who want to perform in a musical ensemble setting. No prerequisite music skills are required, only an interest in performing and learning to play well. This class fulfills the *Subject F: Visual and Performing Arts* requirement if you receive a C or above. Repeatable.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- To perform independently and in groups, a variety of guitar repertoire
- To perform with appropriate musicality, musical knowledge, and ensemble performance skills
- To demonstrate and utilize correct rehearsal skills
- To demonstrate appropriate musicality, musical knowledge, and ensemble performance skills

GUITAR CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

The PLHS Guitar Ensemble relies upon each member to rehearse and perform to the best of their ability. The action of one member directly affects all the other members of the group.

Members of the Point Loma Guitar Program are ambassadors that represent their music department, their school, their community, and their city at various musical events throughout the school year. Appropriate professional decorum must be exhibited at all times. When performing on or off campus, it is important that each student conducts himself/herself in a manner that reflects favorably upon the individual, group, and school.

Citizenship

Citizenship will be evaluated using the Point Loma High School Citizenship rubric, as well as the following:

Readiness to learn:

1. Prepare for learning when you enter the room - and use the bathroom *before* class!
2. Be in seat and ready when the bell rings.
3. Throw away or conceal food, drinks (except water), gum, hats, and electronics **before you enter the classroom.**
4. Have all supplies ready for each rehearsal.
5. Stay focused during class, listening carefully to directions.

Classroom Conduct:

1. Be respectful of yourself, others, and all property.
2. Use appropriate language.
3. Dress in an appropriate manner as stated in the student handbook.
4. During rehearsal, stay focused and ask questions by raising your hand when needed.

Display on task behavior:

1. During rehearsal, maintain attention - listen more than you talk.
2. Begin and end all pieces with silence; stop promptly and quietly if directed.
3. Keep distractions away (including other schoolwork, makeup, food, hats, and electronics).
4. Be an active participant
5. Wait for instruction from the director before packing up.

Be respectful to others:

1. Act appropriately to the classroom setting: be polite, attentive, and non-disruptive.
2. Treat teachers, substitutes, other students, yourself, and all property kindly and gently.
3. Keep a positive attitude and maintain a desire to learn. Contribute to the ensemble!
4. Desire to gain a better understanding, appreciation, and love for guitar and the guitar repertoire, and to develop your musical potential to the fullest!

SUPPLIES

- It is strongly recommended to bring a black, one-inch 3-ring binder for music storage
- A sharpened pencil with eraser for marking the music
- Music, as supplied by the teacher

Students are expected to be prepared with all materials at the start of every class period.

PERFORMANCES

Every guitar ensemble member is expected to attend all of the group's activities. All performances, rehearsals, and sectionals are REQUIRED, and are part of the grade. Extra rehearsals outside of class are infrequent, but are occasionally necessary. All performances and rehearsal dates will be given to you well in advance in order for you to make necessary arrangements in your schedules (i.e. work or other personal activities). Students with a prolonged illness such as the flu, surgery, or other debilitating injury, should submit a physician's note for excuse.

ATTENDANCE:

Daily Rehearsals

It is crucial that you are in class everyday and an effective rehearsal requires complete mental and physical involvement. Additionally, guitar works like a team so when you are absent, we miss out and you miss out which hurts the team. *It is your responsibility to come and get any work you missed while you were absent.* See Mrs. Soliz during Advisory, lunch, or afterschool to discuss what you have missed. You have the number of days absent to make up missed work without penalty.

MAKE UP PROVISIONS

Homework, tests, quizzes

All exams, tests, quizzes, and homework that are missed due to an excused absence can be made up. In most cases, make up work should be completed upon return to school. In some severe cases, the student/parent can make special arrangements as necessary with Mrs. Soliz without penalty. If one week has passed since the student was absent and the student has made no attempt to contact the teacher or make up the work, the grade will result in an automatic "0".

Performances

Any performance is a moment that **cannot be recreated**. During a performance, each student's ability, knowledge, and training are at their sharpest and fullest state. We are judged by our performances. When you are absent, it affects the entire ensemble. It is therefore critical that each member of the ensemble attend every performance and support his/her fellow group members. This is called team spirit and shows dedication and responsibility.

Most concerts and performances are set at least 6 weeks in advance; because of this, ALL performances are mandatory, unless otherwise stated. Failure to make a performance will result in an F for the performance and will subsequently lower your grade. **Transportation difficulty or work schedule cannot be considered for excused absences.** The only acceptable excuses for missing a concert would include verified serious illness, bereavement, family emergency, or the observation of a religious holiday. In these cases, students will be allowed to make up the performance by playing every note of the missed performance for the teacher and the class.

ASSESSMENT/GRADING PERCENTAGES:

Music Literacy/Participation 80%	Performances 20%
This category includes all music reading assignments, sight reading tests, music worksheets, ear training assignments, etc. It also includes other daily assignments necessary for effective participation in the daily rehearsal but not directly related to music literacy (analyzing poetry of a text, practice reports, marking the score, etc.)	This category includes all required curricular dress rehearsals and performances.

Students can earn up to 20 points in Daily Participation using the following rubric:

Preparation (5pts)

- Has footstool, stand, music, and guitar when the bell rings
- Pencil

Learning Involvement (5pts)

- Actively plays as instructed
- Studies individual part silently while teacher works with another section
- Keeps music binder up to date

Correct Guitar Posture (5pts)

- When reading standard notation: left foot on footstool, sitting at the front of the chair, back straight, guitar has 3 points of contact

Guitar Behavior (5pts)

- Is on time (in seat when the bell rings)
- Moves promptly and quietly to assigned seat
- Remains on task
- Is not distracting
- Displays positive learning attitude
- No gum, candy, or food (water is encouraged!)
- Remains in seat during rehearsal
- Enters and exits the classroom properly