

Justice Myron E. Leavitt Middle School

THE BEST
MIDDLE
SCHOOL IN
THE
COUNTRY!

Follow the **PATRIOT WAY FIVE CORE VALUES**

LEADERSHIP: LEAD inside and outside of the classroom through a POSITIVE example.

COURAGE: Take RISKS in their learning and thinking: have courage to share ideas.

INVINCIBLE GRIT: PERSEVERE even when tasks get tough.

CREATIVITY: INNOVATE: Use your creativity to solve problems at school and in the community. THINK outside the box.

GLORIOUS KINDNESS: TREAT each person the way you wish to be treated.



Course Expectations Martin Lopez Intermediate Guitar



Student's Name:

Student ID Number:

Student:

- I have read and understand the school rules listed above.
- I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- I have read and understand the course expectations provided for this course.

Signature of Student

Date

Parent/Guardian:

- I have read and understand the school rules pertaining to my child.
- I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- I have read and understand what is expected of my child in this course.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please Print Parent Email:

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This email will be for teacher use only.

I. Course Descriptions

Intermediate Guitar

Course Scope: This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Beginning Guitar Syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an intermediate level and will learn many of the different styles, skills, and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation, and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. This course may be repeated.

Course Goals:

1. To develop skills playing in fifth position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm.
2. To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level rhythms.
3. To perform melodic lines and scales in the keys of C, D, F, G, A and E.
4. To demonstrate and perform moveable bar chords based on the "E" and "A" chord forms.
5. To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level right-hand techniques.
6. To create simple melodies.
7. To participate in performance and evaluation of music.
8. To become aware of musical styles and composers and their correlation to world history.
9. To perform with students from other artistic disciplines.

II. Course Activities

a. In Class Performances – Tests and Quizzes (both writing *and* playing assessments)

b. Practicing at Home

*Practicing regularly is essential for students to succeed in guitar class. It's recommended that students practice about 100 minutes each week. It's also recommended that students practice for about 15-20 minutes per day rather than practicing for 100 minutes one day. This will better aid the students in developing skills concerning their posture, technique, etc. The home practice environment and schedule are very important for middle school students. The environment should be free from distractions and conducive to practicing. Students should practice in a chair that promotes excellent posture and allows them to read their music from a **music stand**. Finally, parents should expect to see and hear their student practice daily. Please assist your students by establishing a daily practice routine. If your student uses the phrase, "I have nothing to practice," it is simply not true. There will always be new material and concepts to practice or master.*

c. Performances and Dress Rehearsals

Concerts

*Concerts are a required part of guitar classes, and a large part of a student's grade. Please put the concert dates on your calendars ASAP. If a student misses a concert for an excused reason they will be given a make-up assignment to be completed for full credit. There is no make-up assignment for an unexcused absence, the performance grade will show a 0. Please inform Mr. Lopez as soon as possible when you know you will have to miss a concert. Participation in a concert is a privilege, not a right. Students are required to have a "C" or better and no "N's" or "U's" in guitar class and **must be able to perform the concert music**. This rule is intended to allow for all the students who have met these requirements to have a concert that they have worked hard for. If a student cannot perform due to his/her grades or performance level, a written music composer report will be required to make up the points. If a student is eligible to perform, it is a required performance.*

*Students work extremely hard in preparing for these concerts, so all parents/guardians are encouraged to attend performances that their child is in. It's a wonderful opportunity to show support for your child's talent and hard work as well as the music department here at Leavitt Middle School. **Intermediate Guitar Students are required to wear the Leavitt Guitar Polo shirt, black pants or slacks, black shoes and black socks. If a student does not wear this at a performance they will not be allowed to perform. No jeans are allowed.***

Guitar Trips

Students in Intermediate Guitar go on a couple trips throughout the year. When the ensemble goes on trips, they play in front of adjudicators for scores. Students need to practice and be prepared for these performances. That being said, students with a D or F will not be permitted to go on these trips because they are not properly prepared. Also, any students with discipline referrals can be withheld from going on any trip at the discretion of the director or LMS administration

** Leavitt Middle School will not be responsible for any monies that are non-refundable or are otherwise lost due to the subsequent cancellation of a field trip or school-sponsored trip. Also, Leavitt Middle School will not be responsible for any monies that are non-refundable due to revoked field trip privileges as a result of disciplinary consequences.*

District Festival

Students attending festival will be required to take a playing test in order to perform at the event or any guitar ensemble trip. At festival, our students are adjudicated by outside professionals, and it's imperative that they're properly prepared to perform. If a student cannot get a C or higher on the playing test, he or she will be required to do a written assignment in place of the performance. If students practice and participate consistently throughout the year, they'll easily succeed at all festivals.

d. Daily Participation: in class playing, journal entries, having instrument and materials

Daily Procedures

- 1. Students must be in their seats with all materials by one minute after the bell has rung.*
 - 2. When a teacher approaches the podium, all playing and talking needs to stop immediately.*
 - 3. All directions are to be followed the first time they are given. Listening is imperative for this to happen.*
 - 4. To keep our instruments and room an appropriate place for our ensemble and instruments, no food, gum, or candy is ever permitted to be the Guitar room.*
 - 5. Each student needs to have respect for him/herself, his/her peers, teachers, and any equipment in the Guitar room.*
 - 6. Proper conduct is expected of all students at all times under school and district rules.*
- e. *Having a good time!*

III. Evaluation

a. Criteria for Student Grades

Homework 5%

Performances 35%

Participation 30%

Assessment 30%

Performances 35%

All Guitar Students are required to participate in concerts. There are Winter and Spring Concert that all students are perform on and other performances that only Intermediate and or Advanced play on. At the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarter there will be an In-Class Performance that will take the place of the required Winter and Spring Concerts in those grading periods.

Participation 30%

Participation is a tremendous part of any performing arts class. In order to participate, students must have the aforementioned materials in school regularly or points will be deducted from their participation grade. Students also need to follow the classroom procedures appropriately in order to get full participation credit. This includes being in the proper seat and the right time, locking lockers daily, etc. Additionally, students should be playing their instruments. If a student has an instrument, but does not play it, he or she will still lose participation points even though he or she is prepared.

30% Assessment

Playing tests will be given periodically along with written tests occasionally. Content of the tests will include the basic music fundamentals learned in class. Students are allowed to retake playing/written

tests as many times as they would like as long as improvement is displayed each time by making arrangements with the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to retake the test.

5% Homework

All students are expected to submit completed homework as required by the teacher. Optimal student learning happens only if work is done in a timely fashion. Practice Records will be due every 2 weeks and will count as a homework assignment. If it is not turned in on time a 10% penalty will be assessed each day for the first week.

b. Semester Exams

The semester exams are written exams that will include basic music fundamentals that the students have learned throughout the year. The two quarters will each make up 40% of the semester grade and the exam will be worth the remaining 20%.

c. Explanation of Student Grades

A 100-90%

B 89-80%

C 79-70%

D 69-60%

F 59% and below

GUITAR CITIZENSHIP RUBRIC

In order to receive an OUTSTANDING citizenship grade, students will:

1. ALWAYS arrive quietly, and on time to class
2. ALWAYS sit in assigned seat quickly upon arrival
3. ALWAYS contribute to the class by giving 100%
4. ALWAYS have required materials quickly when needed (pencils /pens/ paper/folder)
5. ALWAYS maintain eye contact with the director during rehearsal and instruction
6. ALWAYS remain silent when appropriate
7. NEVER chew gum, consume beverages, or eat in class
8. ALWAYS play with great posture
9. ALWAYS play with energy and enthusiasm
10. NEVER have electronic devices out when not asked by the teacher.
11. NEVER miss a concert

Below is the scale for citizenship. All reports of misconduct will be documented in the teacher's grade book so either the students and parents will be able to check Infinite Campus portal to see what his or her current citizenship grade is, and why points have been lost.

0-2 infractions- Outstanding

3-5 infractions -Satisfactory

6-8 infractions -Needs Improvement

9 or more infractions – Unsatisfactory

***Please be advised that serious infractions may result in an automatic *Unsatisfactory* in citizenship.

All reports of misconduct will be documented in the teachers' grade book so both students and parents will be able to check the Infinite Campus Portal to see what his or her current citizenship grade is, and why points have been lost.

f. Make-up Work

Daily grades can be made up with make-up practice time after school and/or by writing a critique of an article about music. For each absence, students are to practice an extra hour (exception: if student is absent due to school activity.) *Daily Participation points cannot be given if a student was not present to participate. Students should see Mr. Lopez for appropriate make-up work.* If a student misses an assignment, written test or performance, it is his/her responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to complete the required work within three days of returning.

e. How and when students will be advised of their grades

- i. Parents and students are urged to check the Infinite Campus Portal for grades regularly.

f. Late Work policy – **If a student does not complete any assignment (for reasons other than an absence), they will be assigned a make-up work detention the following school day from 3:30 to 4:25 EVEN if they turn the assignment in the next school day.**

g. Test retake policy – **A student may only retake a test if 1) all assignments have been turned in 2) the student has asked for help, clarification, or exhibited evidence of further studying and a further mastery of the subject matter.**

IV. School-Wide Rules

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat
4. Make SMART Choices: Kindness, Leadership, Courage, Invincible Grit, Creativity
5. Work hard to do your best for your teachers and parents at all times.
6. Keep your eyes on the target.

V. TARDY POLICY – Progressive Steps

- a. 1st Tardy – Warning & Parent Phone Contact
- b. 2nd Tardy – Warning & Parent Phone Contact
- c. 3rd Tardy – Non-TRS RPC
- d. 4th Tardy – After School Detention
- e. 5th Tardy – In-House Suspension (IHS)
- f. 6th Tardy – Required Parent Conference – RPC/Tardy Contract
- g. 7th Tardy – IHS/parent and student meet with the principal

VI. BEHAVIOR- Progressive Discipline

- a. 1st Incident – Verbal warning
- b. 2nd Incident - Parent contact by teacher
- c. 3rd Incident – Written contact to parent
- d. 4th Incident – Counselor referral
- e. 5th Incident – Deans' referral

VII. Supplies Needed for This Course

Each student needs to have the following items each time their class meets. Grades will be influenced if students are unprepared.

1. Instrument and necessary accessories (picks, etc.)
2. Guitar Method Book
3. Sheet Music
4. Guitar Notes
5. Pencil (no pens!)
6. A Folder or binder to put all material (music, notes, etc.)

VIII. Utilizing technology to learn - This year, at Leavitt, we want to encourage the daily use of technology in and out of the classroom to further enhance the educational experience. As such, Leavitt will be providing students with individual devices in grades 7 and 8 to utilize in class and at home. Students will also be provided with a Google email address to correspond with their teacher and classmates on projects, as well as to turn in assignments. Students may choose to utilize their own electronic tablets (iPads, Kindle Fire, Samsung, etc.) cell phones, laptops, and reading devices for educational purposes. Please be reminded that your student is responsible for the safety of their personal device and must utilize the district's Wi-Fi to ensure their internet safety. All use of these devices will be for educational purposes and must be approved by the individual teacher.

IX. Explanation of Fees

Guitar Fee

The fee for being a band student is \$25. This covers sheet music, methods books, theory books, classroom supplies, etc.

Intermediate Students will receive a Leavitt Guitar Polo Shirt.

X. LMS Guitar Program Calendar

December 2, 2019- Winter Guitar Concert- Leavitt MS Gym (All Guitar Students)

February 1, 2020- MS Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Clark HS (For Advanced/Intermediate Only)

March 10, 2020- CCSD MS Advanced Guitar Festival @ LVA (For Advanced/Intermediate Only)

April 23-26, 2020-Fine Arts San Antonio Trip (For Select Advanced/Intermediate Students)

May 4, 2020- Spring Guitar Concert @ Leavitt MS Gym (All Guitar Students)

***If any dates change or are added to this list, all parents/guardians and students will get notification in advance.**

XI. Other Important Information about Guitar Class

PERSONAL CARE & HYGIENE FOR PLAYING GUITAR

Guitars are rather delicate and are made of polished wood. The strings are made of tightly stretched nylon or steel. Our school guitars are used by several students each day, and they must be treated carefully by each student. A few ideas for students include:

- 1) Make sure your hands are clean before playing—no food, dirt, oil, etc.
- 2) Fingernails must be trimmed as neatly as possible, especially the left hand fingernails.

- 3) Do not wear dangling bracelets when playing guitar—be careful of watches or rings that may cause damage to strings or create scratches on the guitar.
- 4) Do not wear a shirt with metal buttons or a zipper on its front that may damage the guitar.
- 5) If you wear a shirt with extra-long or bulky sleeves make sure you roll or push up your sleeves.

INSTRUMENTS

The students at Leavitt MS use SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS in Guitar class. There is no need for any student or parent to buy or rent a guitar. However, I highly encourage all parents to procure a nylon string Classical guitar for their student to practice at home. They can be found starting at around \$100. Since we have a “classroom” set of guitars, no student may check out a guitar to take home. There will be before and after school practice times designated in the Guitar Room where interested students may practice.

CCSD does not purchase left handed guitars. The district does not purchase left handed violins or any orchestra instrument either. If your student is left handed may I encourage them to try to play right handed. To be a guitarist, you must be ambidextrous. The left hand on a right handed guitar is the fret hand and is the most difficult to learn. Left handed students will have an advantage because of it. However, if you purchase a left handed guitar your student may use it in class.

Acoustic/electric guitars will be played by certain students, at Mr. Lopez discretion.

XII. Teachers Hours of Availability

Mr. Lopez is available before school every day and after school nearly every day for students who require extra help and/or practice time.

For the quickest response, parents can contact Mr. Lopez via email at rmlopez1@interact.ccsd.net. If email is not available, he can also be contacted by telephone at (702) 799-4699 ext. 3220