



Classical Guitar

2018 - 2019

Student Handbook

Mr. John Montemayor – Director

Gorzycki Middle School
7412 West Slaughter Lane
Austin, TX 78749

Office: 512-841-8632

Website: <http://www.gmstigers.org>

Email: John.Montemayor@austinisd.org

Welcome:

Dear Gorzycki Classical Guitar Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Gorzycki Classical Guitar Program! Let me begin by thanking you for entrusting us to educate your children. It will be a great honor to teach them.

As you are probably aware, Gorzycki has a reputation for excellence and the Gorzycki Classical Guitar Program is no exception. Musical studies on the classical guitar provide new and exciting opportunities for parents as well as students, and your involvement is essential and welcome. Classical guitar students develop in areas of **responsibility, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership, and dependability**. Students of the guitar program also develop musical skills, which enrich their lives and the lives of those who take part in the student's musical experience. Each student should, with practice and effort, achieve success on his/her respective instrument. The amount of practice and effort on the students' part will be directly reflected in their degree of success. This is where parental support and encouragement are so important.

As a member of the Gorzycki Middle School Classical Guitar Program, you are now a vital part of a winning team. As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. I want the best for you and that is the reason I will demand the best from you. You have the opportunity to enjoy some great times as part of the program and I look forward to sharing them with you.

The information contained in this handbook is an official guide for all classical guitar students at Gorzycki Middle School. **All guitar members, parents, and/or guardians of guitar members are required to read this handbook, sign the letter of acknowledgement at the end of the handbook, and return the letter no later than Friday, September 7th, 2018.** (It will be marked as the first grade of the year – pass or fail). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through phone or email. Your input is always appreciated.

I am looking forward to another great year!

Sincerely,

John Montemayor - Classical Guitar Director

Grading System:

The following is an explanation of the instrumental music grading system. There are three major categories

- A. PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES – 25% of grade
- B. DAILY GRADES – 25% of grade
- C. WRITTEN QUIZZES – 50% of grade

A. *Performances Techniques:*

1. Major performance attendance is taken into account because performing is the culmination of the work completed during the grading period. Performances that are missed cannot be made up. Once that performance is missed, it is missed forever. An updated calendar of performances and/or events can be found on the Gorzycki Classical Guitar Website.
2. If a conflict other than illness or extreme emergency occurs, notification and a request for permission to miss the event must be submitted **in writing** by the parents/guardian to the director **at least one week in advance** of the scheduled performance (**to be approved**). Students who are absent because of illness or emergency should make every attempt to notify the director prior to the performance.
3. **If a student misses a major performance without prior approval, the final six weeks grade will be lowered 25%.**

B. *Daily Grades:*

1. Students are required to practice 30 minutes, five days out of each week. (Guitar 2 / 3)
2. Students must participate in class every day. To do this, the student must have their instrument, music, a pencil, and all accessories needed to perform (footstool). The student must be actively participating in proper playing position and giving their best effort in sound, tone production, and accuracy.
3. Student's behavior can also affect this category. Students who continually disrupt the classroom will lose 5 pts. off their weekly grade. Each student will be given 3 verbal warnings before a student begins to lose the points.

C. *Written Quizzes:*

1. As with other performing electives, students must learn to perform in front of each other. During performance assessment, each student will perform the assignment at his/her seat. While a student is testing, the remainder of the class will continue to be quiet and courteous towards the performer. Any student who speaks, or makes any disrespectful gesture to a colleague during testing, will have their performance test lowered by 5 points for each infraction.
2. Students will also be learning about music theory and music history in guitar class. There will be periodic assignments and test, which will count towards this portion of the grading book.

Extra credit or points can be earned as follows:

- **Attending approved music events**

Tardy Policy:

The tardy policy begins at the beginning of each six weeks. Tardies will only be excused with a pass from a teacher or the office.

- 1 Tardy – Verbal Warning
- 2 Tardies – Parent call / email and lunch detention (go to the next step if student does not show up)
- 3 Tardies – Parent call / email and office referral (student will not go on next guitar trip at this point)

Private Lessons:

The individual attention that a student receives in private instruction helps develop their maximum potential as a player and member of our ensemble. As performing in an ensemble is important, it is also important to work on solo repertoire outside of the classroom to work on additional techniques not covered in class. In addition, private instruction offers students the opportunity to explore the extensive wealth of solo literature available for their instrument not covered in class.

Private lessons are **strongly recommended**. **Please contact Mr. Montemayor for more information on private lessons at John.Montemayor@austinisd.org**

Responsibilities:

General Rules:

1. Respect your classmates' personal space and property.
2. Profanity or rude language is not acceptable at any time.
3. Only one person may use the restroom at a time.
4. No personal grooming in the classroom.
5. No cell phones / mp3 players at any time.
6. No food / drinks or gum is allowed in the classroom.
7. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to move around the classroom.

Musical Rules:

1. Have your instrument and all supplies every day.
2. Be seated with your instrument when the bell rings.
3. Tune your instrument before class begins.
4. Instrument is in the rest position when the teacher is speaking. NO PLUCKING.
5. ALWAYS have proper playing position when playing the instrument.

Rewards:

1. An extra bathroom pass.
2. A call or email to your home. (The GOOD kind!) 😊
3. The satisfaction of knowing you are doing great!

Penalties:

1. A warning
2. Fill out a refocus form.
3. A call home / detention / behavior contract or referral.
4. 5 points off weekly grade

Practicing:

Dear Parents:

As adults, we understand that progress and achievement are the results of effort. Students need to learn this as well, and it is, in fact, one of the most important principles to learn and will help them with schoolwork and throughout life.

Students need continued encouragement to practice, because practicing takes discipline and effort. Practicing means working out the difficult parts, not just playing over the “easy stuff”.

Help your child establish a regular time and place for practicing that works in your family’s schedule. Monitor your child’s practice on a regular basis to ensure that it is getting done. Talk with your child about the need for practice, and set up mutually agreed upon goals and rewards. The goals should be clear and attainable. The rewards should be something valuable and enjoyable to the child.

Frequently ask your child to perform for you, demonstrating the skills, knowledge, and new music learned while practicing at home. Praise your child’s practice efforts regularly in front of family members and their peers. It will make them feel good about their efforts and about themselves. It will also encourage them to continue practicing and help deepen their relationship with you.

Practicing takes effort, and encouraging students to practice regularly takes effort. However, practice is essential for learning, and it helps develop students’ work habits that they can take with them throughout life.

Each of our students is required to practice a minimum of two hours each week. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional suggestions.

Supply List:

Each student must have required items at all times.

Instrument (Optional) - A nylon-string classical guitar. Although this is optional, it is essential that each student have an instrument so that they may further develop their skills outside of school. **It is highly recommended that students in the intermediate guitar class have an instrument to practice on at home.**

Classical Guitar Footstool or Guitar Elevation Device (Optional) – This is used to elevate the classical guitar for proper seating position.

Nail File / 3M - 500 grit sandpaper (Optional) – To shape and smooth nails out for advanced playing techniques.

Black Three Ring Binder, 1 in. (Required) – To hold music. (No other colors will be allowed)

Pencils (several) in small 3 ring pencil case (Required) – To mark music. NO INK PENS, EVER.

Metronome & Tuner (Optional) – Though it is not a requirement to have a tuner, students will find it nearly impossible to practice without this device. ***D'Addario NS Mirco clip on guitar tuners are highly recommended for all guitar students.***

Guitar Fees and Guitar T-Shirt Order From 2018 - 2019

All fees and this form are due by FRIDAY - September 7TH, 2018

Student (first and last name, printed)

Guitar Fees (check all that apply)

All Guitar Students:

- **\$10 Required Student Fee** _____
- **\$12 GMS Guitar T-Shirt / Hoodie (Optional)** _____

Make all checks payable to GMS Guitar with your child's name in the memo section of the check. If you are paying cash, **PLEASE give your child exact change since Mr. Montemayor will not be able to provide change.** Cash should be placed in an envelope with your child's name on it. Please make payment arrangements with Mr. Montemayor if necessary.

PLEASE NOTE: The \$10 required student fee pays for sheet music, fees for competitions, expensive equipment, buses, awards, student meals, and supplies the guitar program must pay for on behalf of the students during the school year.

Guitar T-Shirt Order Form

Shirt sizes are ADULT SIZES. Please select a size that will fit your child correctly – not too snugly or too loosely. If you (the parent) would like to order a GMS Guitar T-Shirt for yourself or the family, please indicate how many and what size(s) you would like to order below. Each additional GMS Guitar is \$12. The logo on the shirt is the same image as the one below.

_____XS

_____S

_____M

_____L

_____XL

_____XXL

STUDENT (first & last printed) – (FOR GUITAR 2 & 3 STUDENTS ONLY)

2018 - 2019 GORZYCKI MS GUITAR PARENT AGREEMENT & TRIP RELEASE FORM

GUITAR 2 & 3 STUDENTS ONLY

I have read and understand that Gorzycki MS Guitar Handbook and agree to the stated requirements. I also give my child permission to travel with the guitar for events, recreational trips, and competitions throughout the school year. These may include but are not limited to: All City Guitar Concert, GMS fine arts recruiting tour, UIL guitar contest, Guitars Galore, and other related guitar festivals. While my child is in attendance at these events, I understand that my child must follow all district, school, and guitar policies. I understand that my child will be dealt with accordingly in the event that he/she does not comply with these policies. Failure to follow these policies may result in removal from the event/trip and possible loss of all privileges to attend future events/ trips. I understand that AISD, Gorzycki MS, and Mr. Montemayor will not be held liable for any accidental injury that might occur to my child while attending a guitar event / trip. Should medical assistance be needed during one of these events/ trips, Mr. Montemayor is authorized to seek appropriate medical attention to my child.

PARENT / GAURDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

Mother / Guardian:

Name

Email:

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Father / Guardian:

Name

Email:

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Student:

Student's Cell Phone: (in case the student needs to be located during a trip)

Student's Email Address (for updates related to guitar events, performances, and trips.)

Emergency Contact Person

Emergency Contact Phone

Insurance Company

Policy #

Insurance Company Phone

List Any Allergies

Special Instructions

Letter of Acknowledgement

I, _____, (**student's** printed name) have read the guidelines set forth in this handbook and will, to the best of my ability, comply with all of the terms and conditions it contains. I agree to uphold all of the requirements and high standards expected of the Gorzycki Middle School Classical Guitar Program, and to perform my duties with enthusiasm needed to maintain these standards.

If you have any questions about the Gorzycki Guitar program or private guitar lessons please contact:

John Montemayor - Gorzycki Guitar Director

John.Montemayor@austinisd.org

Office: (512) 841-8632

Please sign that you have read and understand the Gorzycki Guitar Handbook.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date