CHS Guitar Class

Period 3 / Room 35

M/T/F 9:35 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., W 9:40 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.

Mr. Brian Handley, Instructor

624-1821, ext. 3735 or bhandley@carmelunified.org

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The CHS Music Department is pleased to offer this class for students beginning study on the guitar, or for those who already play, but wish to learn more about what they are doing. Instruction will occur in several formats including full class discussions and practice, small group work, individual lessons and independent study. All instruction and activities will be designed to relate to one or more of the California State Visual and Performing Arts Music Content Standards listed below.

1. Artistic Perception

Processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the

language and skills unique to music.

2. Creative Expression

Creating, performing and participating in music.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the historical contributions and cultural dimensions of music.

4. Aesthetic Valuing

Responding to, analyzing, and making value judgments about works of music.

5. Connections, Relationships and Application

Connecting and applying what is learned in music to other art forms and

subject areas and to careers.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Two important ideas that contribute to success in life are commitment and cooperation. Guitar class students are expected to demonstrate commitment to their own growth and a class atmosphere of achievement by:

1) Practicing an adequate amount of time to address the demands of assigned lessons.

2) Participating in all class activities.

3) Making a focused effort to learn, demonstrating self-motivation and discipline.

4) Properly caring for all equipment and facilities provided for use throughout the year.

Cooperation is vital to the success of any group endeavor. Despite the fact that you may be doing a great deal of individual work, your attitude, demeanor and actions will have a direct effect the musical and educational experience of every other member of the class. Learning to negotiate the challenges and appreciate the rewards found in this type of class environment can be beneficial in one’s personal and professional future. Class members should always strive to:

1) Treat each individual with respect and courtesy.

2) Follow procedures and instructions with a positive, cooperative attitude.

3) Deal with challenges and conflicts in a mature and productive manner.

4) Respect all campus rules and guidelines.

**CLASS PROCEDURES**

Class will begin three minutes after the bell has rung. Students are expected to be in the classroom before the bell and should use the remaining time to take out instruments and music and report to their assigned spot and prepare for class to begin. Students not in the room before the bell, or not in place by three minutes after the bell will be considered tardy. Please be aware that the music department strictly adheres to the school-wide tardy policy.

Each individual is expected to have the following items in their possession:

1) Instrument (and necessary accessories)

2) Music Book and any handouts

3) Pencil

Please Note: Guitar class students will be asked to purchase their own copy of the method book. Also, while not required, folding music stands are a useful tool for home practice.

At the conclusion of class, instruments are to be put away properly with chairs and stands being cleared to prepare for the next class.

**GRADES**

Grades are earned by each student, not “given” by a teacher. Every student has the opportunity to earn an ‘A’ regardless of their years of experience. While making music is a collaborative process, grades will be based on each student's individual efforts in the categories of participation (60%) and performance (40%). Grades will be updated on Aries every 2-3 weeks and quarter/semester grades will be assigned on a percentage basis.

A = 90%-100%, B = 79%-89%, C = 68%-78%, D = 57%-67%, F = 56% or below.

**Participation**

A significant portion of each student's grade is based on participation. The importance of, and guidelines for, appropriate participation have been explained in the previous sections of this course guide. Students may earn up to 5 points per day in class. Positive participation will ensure full points being awarded. Violations of student expectations such as poor effort, disruptive behavior, being off-task, tardiness, food/gum, cell phones, etc. will lower the points a student receives for the day/week.

**Performance**

A student's performance grade will be based upon points accumulated for tests, class projects and other written work.

**Playing tests**

One way in which each student's individual progress will be measured will be through playing tests. These will occur in two formats; one on one with the teacher and also on occasion as a class. Students will be notified of testing materials and formats well in advance of each test. Most tests will be graded on a traditional scale and others may be designated as Pass/Fail.

**Equipment Check-out**

Most CHS Guitar class students use their own instruments. While electric guitars will be discussed and explored, **each student should have an acoustic folk or classical guitar to work with in class on a daily basis**. In the event that a student does not have access to an instrument, there are a limited number of school owned guitars that may be checked out. Equipment will be released to a student only after instructor approval and parent permission have been obtained. Charges for lost or damaged items will vary based on replacement cost.