**Centennial High School**

**Course Syllabus**

**GUITAR 2015-2016**

Teacher: Allen Leung, allen\_leung@hcpss.org

1. **Purpose of the Course:** Students will be able to perform, create, and respond to guitar music through the understanding of technique, style, historical context, and written notation.
2. **Course Content:** Students will learn and practice basic guitar techniques and music/tab reading skills through whole class instruction and individualized study. A variety of guitar literature will be practiced, rehearsed, and performed. In addition to performing, students will develop the ability to understand, appreciate, perceive, create, and respond to music through balanced instruction that includes comprehensive musical concepts. Students will be able to perform basic chord progressions, notated melodies, notated accompaniment patterns, improvised solos, and basic rhythm patterns.
3. **Classroom Procedures**
4. *Behavioral Expectations:* For a class to work as efficiently as possible, that class must have respect for each other and a procedure by which the group can meet their objectives. Each individual must adhere to the following rules so that the class can be successful.
5. Be on time and be in your seats by the time the bell rings.
6. Have all required materials that are necessary for instruction.
7. Do not talk or play while class instruction is given (headphones off)
8. Gum, soft drinks, candy, or food will not be allowed during class.
9. Music is the property of CHS and must be put away appropriately. Any music book lost or damaged will be replaced at the cost of msrp.
10. Have all assignments learned by the given deadlines.
11. Do not touch things that are not your property.
12. Stay in your seat until you have permission to leave your station.
13. Treat others as you would have them treat you.
14. Turn off and put away all cell phones and electronic devices.

Failure to follow these class rules will result in disciplinary action.

1. Warning – Conference with Mr. Leung
2. Teacher Detention (Lunch or After School)
3. Teacher Detention and Parent Conference
4. Administrative Referral
5. *Required Materials:* Students must have a guitar to practice at home, their textbooks, a pencil, and a folder or notebook for handouts. Your guitar folder/notebook will be checked periodically so please keep it organized.
6. *Academic Expectations:* Students are responsible for exercises, literature, and written assignments as they are given. Performance tests will be given on a weekly to biweekly basis to assess proficiency on techniques and knowledge/application of musical terms. Written work will be done periodically to evaluate knowledge of music theory and basic vocabulary. Unit tests will be given every so often to assess knowledge of written work. Practice of performance requirements will happen in class and at home.
7. *Practicing:* As with any skill you want to learn, effective practice makes perfect. The more you play correctly the better your playing will become and the more you will enjoy it. Here are some suggestions for effective practicing.
8. Play as often as you can.
9. Musicians need a music stand, a metronome, and a straight back chair.
10. Flex and stretch your fingers to make them supple before starting to play.
11. Warm your hands if they are cold.
12. It is better to practice often for short periods of time than seldom for long periods. This is for skill and muscle development that needs frequency for best results.
13. Find an environment with no distractions.
14. Start playing everything slowly with an even tempo. Be patient. Make sure you can play smoothly at one tempo.
15. Isolate difficult spots and practice slowly until you master them. Increase tempo as mastery improves.
16. Master playing while keeping eyes on the music.
17. Correct mistakes before they become bad habits.
18. *Grading Policy:* Grades will be based on playing tests, written assignments, projects, and participation.
19. Playing Tests will be determined by observed and recorded performance of scales, etudes, and literature. Grades will be based on technique, rhythmic accuracy, note accuracy, and musicality.
20. Written assignments, tests, and projects will be assigned throughout the school year.
21. Participation grade is based on the individual effort of each student. A daily points system will be used and each full week will be worth 20 points. Failure to do assignments or to follow expected procedures will result in a lowering of participation points.

**80%** Playing Tests, Performances, Written Assignments, and Projects

**20%** Participation

\*Note, at times students will be recorded. Recordings will be used solely as an assessment and educational tool to help the students and teacher. If this is a concern please contact me.

**\***According to Howard County Public Schools, any student missing more than five percent of class is subject to denial of credit. Five percent of classes equal nine days out of the semester.

\*CHS computer labs are to be used strictly for academic purposes only, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the HCPSS policy 8080 for acceptable computer use.

Name:

**Guitar Class Survey**

1. What school did you attend last year?
2. Do you have a guitar? Yes No If so what kind?
3. List some of your favorite music performers or groups.
4. Do you have a favorite guitarist? If yes, who?
5. Name your three favorite movies.
6. Name your two favorite TV shows.
7. What do you hope to accomplish in this class?
8. Do you read music? Yes No
9. What instrument or instruments have you played? Please list how long you have played and who you have studied with.
10. Have you played in band or orchestra? If yes, provide details.
11. Would you consider your proficiency level to be beginner, intermediate, or advanced on guitar?
12. If you have any other information you would like to share about yourself or questions about the class, please write on the back of this sheet.

**\*\*\* Parents and Students please sign and return this survey stating that you have read and understood the content of the course syllabus. Please return by Friday, August 29.**

Parent/Guardian:­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_