

CDS Guitar Students

Instrument Requirements and Supplies:

-Guitar (classical or acoustic) *Students must have a personal acoustic instrument. If the student has both acoustic and electric, they may use the electric for home practice and store the acoustic at school for class.*

-Instrument Case *The instrument should have a case or gig bag. Cases are necessary for instruments to be transported. Hard cases offer the most protection, Padded or semi hard cases offer moderate protection and are much lighter weight. Gig bags that are not padded are primarily dust protectors and offer very little protection for the instrument. Padded or semi hard cases are recommended as a lighter option over heavy hard cases*

-Everybody's Guitar Method Book 1 by Groeber, Hoge and Sanchez (FJH Publishers)

-Soft cleaning cloth

-2 extra sets of strings

(be sure to get the correct size, type and tension for your instrument)

one set to be kept in case

one set to be kept at home

-Clip Tuner (Snark type or another similar brand)

-Capo (THIS ITEM IS OPTIONAL)

Spring Clamp Capos are the easiest to use. Capos sizes are different for classical/nylon string or acoustic/steel strings so be sure to get the correct type for your specific instrument. This optional item is important if your student likes to play chords and sing or have others sing along.

GUITAR Purchasing Information

-Every guitar is personal, and the student needs to like their guitar. Electric guitars are ok for home practice, but the action and feel of the instrument will be different than an acoustic or classical guitar. Sometimes skill transfer is affected when the student is required to play and perform using a classroom acoustic or classical guitar. Students should have an acoustic or classical instrument even if they also have an electric for home practice. Finally, if a student chooses to use an electric instrument at home, a small amplifier will also be needed in order to complete home practice video assignments. It is very difficult to make an assessment or give constructive feedback on an electric that isn't being amplified.

-The guitar should be properly sized for the student. A guitar that is too big or too small makes it more difficult for the student. Some smaller students have no difficulty handling a larger guitar, so the sizing process is personal.

A solid top guitar is preferred but not required. The listed guitars are examples of good choices, but do not reflect the numerous choices available to the consumer. Solid wood top instruments are simply higher quality than student guitars and will generally have a longer life.

-The nylon string hollow body guitar is a classical guitar.

-The steel string hollow body guitar is referred to as an acoustic guitar.

-Acoustic-electric guitars are hollow body nylon or steel string guitars that have the pickups that allow amplification.

-Electric guitars are solid body and require an amplifier.

-Students must use an acoustic or classical guitar in the classroom

Yamaha guitars offer excellent student instruments for beginners. These are relatively inexpensive but provide a consistent quality at for an entry level guitar. Yamaha makes both acoustic and classical student models.

Parents should expect to pay approximately \$150 for a decent new beginner instrument. Spending between \$200-\$300 will provide the student an instrument that should not have to be upgraded if the student progresses very quickly.

BRAND NAMES

(This is not a complete listing but is representative of many of the major brands)

Yamaha

Cordoba

Fender (Starcaster not recommended)

Luna

Martin

Taylor

Gibson

A few brands that are note recommended:

-Carl Robelini (Yamaha guitars in similar price ranges are a better choice)

Please do not purchase your instrument through Walmart, Target or other big box stores. Again, there are much better instruments in similar price ranges at the local guitar and music stores.

If this is your first guitar, purchasing from a local store allows the student to try it out and see if it feels good. Does the student like the sound? Does it feel too small or too big or just right?

Reputable online stores where you can purchase include Sweetwater, Musicians Friend, Guitar Center Online and Sam Ash Online. Amazon also carries many of the recommended instruments. As with all online purchases, be mindful of possible extra cost for shipping. Finally, if an instrument purchased online isn't set up or adjusted properly, you will need to then take it to a local store or instrument repair technician for adjustment at additional cost.

Avoid the beginner sets advertised for under \$100. They will actually be more difficult to play. Often these very inexpensive guitars have tuning issues. We want the student to be set up for success.

A protective case is necessary if the student will be transporting the instrument. If you purchase a soft case, choosing one with protective padding is preferable to the gig bags that are just dust covers.

Local places to purchase quality guitars include:
Music Showcase (may offer guitar rent to own options)
Sam Ash,
Guitar Center