

Course Information: HPS MUSIC CURRICULUM

Topic: Beginning Guitar

Grade Level: 7 and 8

Length: One Academic Quarter

Periods Per Day: 1 period, 50 minutes

Essential Understanding:

Beginning Guitar is a one quarter performing arts elective where students are required to practice and perform on the guitar. It is intended for students with little to no past practice with the guitar. The course covers fundamental musical concepts including beat, beat-keeping, rhythms, time signature, notation, the musical alphabet, chords, listening skills, song form, and other concepts necessary for successful performance. Students will study fundamental performance aspects through learning rock and roll, folk, and pop songs written across multiple decades. Students will perform in class periodically or each other.

Concepts:

Basic Musical Concepts: beat, beat-keeping, subdivision, foot-tapping

Rhythmic Concepts: quarter notes, whole notes, half notes, eighth notes, triplets

Notation Concepts: musical notation, arrow notation, time signature, musical alphabet, chords, song form,

Aural Concepts: listening skills, rote instruction, call and answer

Guitar Concepts: chord progressions, strum patterns, finger picking, blues form, major chords, minor chords, seventh chords, added chords

Right Hand Concepts: down strums, up strums, rhythms, resting, *muting*,

Left Hand Concepts: chord, finger placement, “buzzes,” Barre chords,

Course Objectives and Expectations:

- Performing various songs progressing in difficulty throughout the year.
- Performing for weekly assessment of cumulative concepts.
- Training students to separate RH from LH and voice from guitar; sing & play.
- Providing a segue experience into musical ensembles.

Student Objectives:

- I can perform songs on guitar for other listeners to enjoy.
- I can break down and layout the form of songs for educational purposes.
- I can prepare and perform a recorded song while maintaining beat and establish consistency in my sound production.

- I can understand tablature, chord charts, arrow notation, and utilize them for their intended purposes.
- I can play at least 20 different chords on guitar.

Pacing & Montana Content Standard:

Week 1

Basic Elements of Guitar

Study and Perform G7 and C chords

Arrow notation

Week 2

Quarter Notes & Chord Changes

Up-Strums

Study and Perform G and D7 Chords

Week 3

8th notes

Study and Perform Em chord

Arrow Notation

Sing & Play

Analyze Songs into AB/ABA form

Week 4

Syncopated strumming patterns

Hearing 4 chord progression (I, VI, IV, V)

Study and Perform D Chord

4 chord songs

Standards

Introductions

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice, MU:Cr3.2.H.8a Novice

Continued

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr2.1.H.8a Novice

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate

MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr3.2.H.8a Intermediate

Continued

Continued

MU:Cr3.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr3.1.H.8a Intermediate

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate

MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate

Week 5

Study and Perform A Chord

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate
MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Cr3.2.H.8a Intermediate

Chord Analysis for 4 chord progressions
in key of C

MU:Re8.1.H.5a Novice

Week 6

Study and Perform E Chord

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate
MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Cr3.2.H.8a Intermediate

Chord Analysis for 4 chord progressions
in key of D

MU:Re8.1.H.5a Novice

Week 7

Study and Perform Am chord

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate

Counting 8th rests

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice

Week 8

Study and Perform F chord
playing a chord with 4 fingers

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate
MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice

Study and Perform Dm Chord

continued

Counting syncopated rhythms

MU:Cr1.1.H.5a Novice

Week 9

Study and Perform Bm (Barre chord)
and B7 Chord

MU:Cr1.1.H.8a Intermediate
MU:Pr4.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr5.1.H.5a Novice
MU:Pr6.1.H.5a Novice

Course Outline and Assessments:

Unit I: Basic Elements of Guitar Performance

Week 1

- A. Guitar Anatomy
- B. Holding the Guitar
 - 1. Holding the Pick
 - 2. Finger Positioning
- C. Right Hand
 - 1. Beat and Rhythm, Foot Tapping
 - 2. Beat-Keeping
 - 3. Arrow Notation
- D. Left Hand
 - 1. Little Chords C, G7
 - 2. Chord Charts C, G7
- E. Week 1 Assessment- Performance
 - 1. perform a song with using C and G7 Chords

Week 2

- A. Right Hand
 - 1. Beat and Rhythm, Foot Tapping
 - 2. Down and Up strums
- B. Left Hand
 - 1. Chords D and G
 - 2. playing chords with three fingers
 - 3. changing between chords
- C. Week 2 Assessment- Performance
 - 1. perform a song with using D and G chords
- D. Theory Concepts
 - 1. musical alphabet and where chord names come from

Unit II: Song Form & Chord Progressions

Week 3

- A. Right Hand
 - 1. Down up strums with “misses”
- B. Notation
 - 1. arrow notation
- C. Left Hand
 - 1. em chord
 - 2. playing 4 chords, changing every 4 counts
- D. Sing and play “Eleanor Rigby” as a class,
- E. Week 3 Assessment – Performance
 - 1. Perform a song using em
- F. Break down song form (verse/chorus)

Week 4

- A. Listen for 4 chord progress (I, vi, IV, V)

1. Using poses/movements (I.g. Superhero, stand on one foot, hop, pat our head, etc.) to trace changing in chords.
 2. Changing chords based on listening
- B. Right Hand
1. Syncopated strumming patterns with “misses”
- C. Left Hand
1. D chord
- D. Theory concepts
1. counting 8th notes
- E. Week 4 Assessment- Performance
1. Perform a song with D chord

Unit III: Chord Analysis

Week 5

- A. Right Hand
1. Creating and notating strumming patterns based on listening
- B. Left Hand
1. A chord
- C. Theory Concepts
1. Chord Analysis Using the key of C
 - ii. Show how chords are numbered with roman numerals
 1. beginning and ending chord are typically “I”
 - iii. lowercase = minor chord and uppercase = regular (major)
- D. Week 5 Assessment- Performance
1. perform a song with A Chord

Week 6

- A. Right Hand
1. Creating and notating strumming patterns based on listening
- B. Left Hand
1. E Chord
- C. Theory Concepts
1. Chord Analysis Using the key of A
 1. Show how chords are numbered with roman numerals
 2. beginning and ending chord are typically “I”
 3. lowercase = minor chord and uppercase = regular (major)
- D. Week 6 Assessment- Performance
1. perform a song with E chord

Unit IV: Tablature & Reflection

Week 7

- A. Right Hand
 - 1. continue to develop various strumming patterns
- B. Left Hand
 - 1. Am Chord
- C. Theory Concepts
 - 1. counting 8th rests
- D. Week 7 Assessment- Performance
 - 1. perform a song with Am chord

Week 8

- A. Right Hand
 - 1. continue to listen, dictate, and perform various strumming patterns
- B. Left Hand
 - 1. F chord *playing a chord with 4 strings
 - 2. D minor chord
 - 3. Introduction to tablature
- C. Theory Concepts
 - 1. syncopated rhythms
- D. Week 8 Assessment- Performance
 - 1. perform a song with F chord

Week 9

- A. Right Hand
 - 1. continue to listen, dictate, and perform various strumming patterns
- B. Left Hand
 - 1. B Chord *Barre chord
 - 2. B 7
- C. Review Favorite songs
- D. Week 9 assessment
 - 1. perform a song with B or B7

Timeline:

Unit I: Basic Elements of Guitar Performance	10 class periods/ 2 weeks
Unit II: Song Form & Chord Progression	10 class periods/ 2 weeks
Unit III: Chord Analysis	10 class periods/ 2 weeks
Unit IV: Tablature & Reflection	15 class periods/ 3 weeks

Resources:

http://www.musicstandfoundation.org/images/National_Standards_-_Music_Education.pdf

[NationalArtsStandards](#)