

# Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School

## Guitar Department Handbook 2025-2026

Mr. Rubio MPVA Guitar Studio, M-7 [andrew.rubio@houstonisd.org](mailto:andrew.rubio@houstonisd.org)

**Program Overview:** The Meyerland PVA Guitar program emphasizes various styles including Classical, Jazz, Blues, Folk, and Rock. We focus on guitar fundamentals, technique, reading notation, rhythmic accompaniment, solo performance, and ensemble participation. Students progress through levels based on yearly auditions.

### Course Levels:

1. Beginner: Focus on tone production, ensemble participation, fingerstyle techniques, and reading music.
2. Intermediate: Build on foundations, develop musicianship, and expand fingerboard knowledge.
3. Advanced: Play more complex ensemble music, pursue classical solo works, and explore diverse styles.

### Dress Code:

- Nails: Keep short and neat. No long or acrylic nails allowed.
- No skirts (interferes with proper guitar position)
- **Concert attire:** Black slacks/pants, black shoes, black collared shirt

### Grading Policy:

- Performance (Concerts & Attendance): 45%
- Classwork (Ensemble Etiquette, Folio, Quizzes): 35%
- Self-Directed Studies (Tests & Assignments): 20%

**Performance Attendance:** All MPVA Guitar Performances are MANDATORY. Excused absences require prior approval and may be substituted with an assignment. Only medical excuses with a doctor's note will be considered.

**Supplies:** Footstool (at home), small microfiber cloth, notebook, pencils

**Guitar Care:** Students are responsible for their assigned classroom guitars. Report any damage immediately. Students damaging guitars will be charged \$150 and receive a referral.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Be on time and prepared
- Maintain a well-organized classroom folio
- Participate fully in rehearsals
- No food, drinks, gum, or candy
- No cell phones

**Program Support:** MPVA guitar magnet students are asked to contribute a magnet program support contribution of \$50.00 at the beginning of the school year. Annual fee covers student guitar t-shirt, folio, sheet music, classroom instrument maintenance, and performance costs. Program costs include updates to classroom and rental guitar stock, footstools, music stands, guitar tuners, print shop materials, classroom chairs, as well as all department performance and contest costs. Support contributions are handled by our booster club, Friends of MPVA Guitar. Payment method for these contributions will be announced at a later date. Expect the due date to be in September.

### **Practice Expectations:**

- Beginners: 15-30 minutes daily
- Intermediate/Advanced: 30-45 minutes daily
- Establish a regular schedule
- Focus on areas needing improvement
- Practice slowly and correctly, gradually increasing speed
- Use correct fingering
- Be patient with your progress

Note: Content subject to change. Changes will be communicated to students, parents, and program participants.



### **MPVA Guitar Manual Parent Agreement**

Please follow the QR code or link below to acknowledge your receipt of the 2025-65 MPVA GUITAR MANUAL and take a short and important survey.

[2025-26 Parent Agreement Link](#)