

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Master Guitar Ensembles

CAC Approval Date: February 11, 2026 Board Approval Date: March 19, 2026	Course Length: 2 Semesters
Grading: A-F	Credits: 5 Credits per Semester
Proposed Grade Level(s): 9, 10, 11, 12	Subject Area: VAPA Elective Area (if applicable): Fine Arts
Prerequisite(s): Audition Only	Corequisite(s): N/A
CTE Sector/Pathway:	
Intent to Pursue 'A-G' College Prep Status: Yes	
A-G Course Identifier: (f) Visual and Performing Arts	
Graduation Requirement: Yes	
Course Intent: District Course Program (if applicable):	
Folsom Cordova Unified School District 2024-2025 Nondiscrimination Statement The Folsom Cordova Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. For questions or complaints, contact: Jim Huber, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services Compliance Officer, Section 504 Coordinator, ADA Coordinator (students) jhuber@fcusd.org 916-294-9000 x 104580 Shannon Diaz, Director of Compliance Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator sdiaz@fcusd.org 916-294-9000 x 104415	

**1965 Birkmont Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742**

The Folsom Cordova Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the Folsom Cordova Unified School District's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. The District Title IX Coordinator is:

**Shannon Diaz, Director of Compliance
Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator
sdiaz@fcusd.org
916-294-9000 x 104415
1965 Birkmont Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742**

The District nondiscrimination policy can be located at:

<https://www.fcusd.org/district/about-us/nondiscrimination-statementpolicy>

The District's nondiscrimination complaint procedures can be located at:

Students: <https://www.fcusd.org/departments/compliance/complaints/uniform-complaints>

Staff: <https://www.fcusd.org/departments/compliance/complaints/nondiscrimination-in-employment>

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or sex-based harassment, or make a complaint of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment under Title IX, please refer to:

Students: <https://www.fcusd.org/district/about-us/title-ix-notificationsexual-harassment>

Staff: <https://www.fcusd.org/departments/compliance/complaints/sexual-harassment-title-ix>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Master Guitar Ensembles is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on performance. Students will be performing various genres/styles that are found in our contemporary music world. Students will further their study of the many genres/styles and techniques that are found in guitar playing. This course is designed to provide continuing and more challenging musical instruction to new and existing music students. This course will present a strong emphasis on live performance, improvising, songwriting, song-arranging, composing, and recording. Students will continue to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn advanced music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist, composer, arranger, and performer at a more advanced level. The course will also continue to present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player.

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

Unit Number/Title	Unit Essential Questions	Examples of Formative Assessments	Examples of Summative Assessment
1. Tone Production & Technique	*What is the proper left hand technique? *What is the proper right hand technique? *What is the proper way to use a pick, fingerstyle, and demonstrate strum patterns? *What are more advanced styles that are found in guitar tone production and technique?	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests
2. Reading Standard Notation and/or Guitar Tablature	*How do guitarists read, understand, and interpret Standard Notation? *How do guitarists read, understand, and interpret Guitar Tablature?	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests
3. Chords and Accompaniment	*How does the guitarist accompany other musicians by using chord formations? *What are all the essential Open chord formations? *What are all the essential moveable power chord formations? *What are the essential moveable barre chord formations? *What are some of the more advanced and essential chord formations used in guitar playing and performance?	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests
4. Music Theory and Ear-Training	*What is the difference between Major and Minor tonality? *What is the basic theory	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests

	behind chords and chord progressions? *What role do scale formations play in melodic and harmonic structure? *How do guitarists create melodies and/or improvise using scale formations? *What are some of the more advanced and essential scale formations used in guitar playing and performance? *What are the chords found in all key areas?		
5. Musical Form	*What is the significance of Musical Form? *How are songs created? *What are intros, Verses, Choruses, Bridges, Interludes, Pre Choruses, and Outros? *How does one write a song demonstrating knowledge of musical form?	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests
6. Guitar History and Music Appreciation	*What is the history of the guitar? *What genres/styles frequently feature the guitar where it plays a significant role? *When presenting specific musical genres/styles- what are important musical concepts being presented?	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Projects *Quizzes *Tests
7. Ensemble Performance	*How do individual guitarists, instrumentalists, and musicians work in smaller ensembles? *How are ways in which to layer the guitar and other instruments in group	*Teacher observations, daily skills/performance assessments.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests

	performances? *What are the essential concepts guitarists and other instrumentalists should be able to demonstrate when playing in smaller ensembles?		
8. Technology and the Recording Arts	*What are useful websites to assist in learning how to play the guitar? *What are useful software and/or hardware to assist in learning how to play the guitar and/or the Recording Arts? *What are useful technologies to assist in learning how to play the guitar and/or the Recording Arts? *What essential equipment should the guitarist be aware of pertaining to performance and/or the Recording Arts?	*Teacher discussion, demonstrations, and observations.	*Performances *Projects *Quizzes *Tests.

RELEVANT STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS, CONTENT/PROGRAM SPECIFIC STANDARDS:

Link to Common Core Standards (if applicable):

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school.

<https://nafme.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Core-Music-Standards-EUs-EQs-Definitions.pdf>

Link to Framework (if applicable):

Curriculum frameworks provide guidance for implementing the content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). Frameworks are developed by the Instructional Quality Commission, formerly known as the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission, which also reviews and recommends textbooks and other instructional materials to be adopted by the SBE.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/caartsedfw.pdf>

Link to Subject Area Content Standards (if applicable):

Content standards were designed to encourage the highest achievement of every student, by defining the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students should acquire at each grade level.

<https://nafme.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2014-Music-Standards-Guitar-Harmonizing-Instruments-Strand.pdf>

Link to Program Content Area Standards (if applicable):
Program Content Area Standards apply to programs such as International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Career and Technical Education, etc.

TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Textbooks

Board Approved	Textbook Title ISBN #	Author(s)	Publisher	Edition
	N/A			