Lawrence County High School Syllabus

Fall 2026 **Dr. Sidney T. Hearn** **shearn@lawrenceal.org** **256-905-2440**

Conference times: Mon 10:05-11:40, Weds 10:05-11:40, Fri 9:50-10:40

Period 4 - Beginner Guitar Class

Course Description

This course will cover the basics of the guitar and an application of essential music fundamentals. Students will learn the basics of playing guitar at a beginning level through studying music notation, chord symbols, and peer modeling. A brief history of the guitar along with its respective musical styles will be covered in this course.

The main objective of this course is to create an enhanced appreciation for music through playing the guitar. Students will learn how to read music notation, chord symbols, and tablature.

Goals

1. Students will learn the basics of how to play the guitar in a supportive group setting and will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the guitar on music throughout its history.
2. Students will increase their musical knowledge by reading music notation and chord symbols on a daily basis along with learning common scales and beginning improvisational techniques.
3. Students will perform music individually, in small groups, and as a large guitar ensemble.

“Anyone can learn music. It’s not something a few lucky people find in their pocket.”

Classroom Expectations

1. Students will be in the classroom when the bell rings or will be reported as tardy.
2. Band room bathrooms are for biological functions. Do your business then back to the classroom.
3. Students will show respect at all times for the teacher, fellow students, and all equipment/instruments.
4. No food or drinks are allowed on the carpet except water. Keep all other food items on the tile.
5. Students will be prepared every day by having a guitar, pick, book, music stand, and a smile. Only touch the instrument assigned to you.
6. If a student has a question or is having difficulty, it is expected that they will ask for help. Do not suffer in silence!
7. Although this is a noisy, relaxed classroom atmosphere, there are certain expectations that must be met when dealing with a large class with different levels of experience! Be patient and come in with an open mind and a willingness to TRY!

Class Format

Phase 1 - Preparation and Tuning
Phase 2 - Group Activity
Phase 3 - Individual Guided Practice

“Learning an instrument is not a light switch, it’s a process!”

Grading Scale and Policy

Class Participation (60% of Grade): Students will receive daily participation points that reflect active learning engagement during each class. In order to receive all the daily points, students must actively participate in all class activities and have a positive attitude with an effort to learn. Participation points will receive a grade of 0-10 points per class meeting. Getting out a guitar + effort = 10. No guitar/no effort = 0.

Playing Tests (40% of Grade): Students will be given a weekly assignment such as a line from the method book or a song downloaded from the internet that will be played for a grade. Assignments will be based on what has been covered in class and on the individual student’s level of ability at the time. We will usually work on these assignments during class on Monday/Wednesday and then play for a grade on Friday. Playing tests will receive a grade of 0-100 points per week.

Written Work and Tests: Students will occasionally be given worksheets, papers, projects, songs, and other assignments that are designed to enrich and evaluate their musical technique and progress. These types of assignments will be considered as test grades and will receive a grade of 0-100 points per week. There will be a written exam at the end of the semester.

Classroom Discipline

Teacher and student are in this together! Each student is expected to know and follow the school rules and classroom expectations at all times. A student’s first infraction of classroom expectations will merit a correction from the teacher. A second infraction will result in break detention the following day. A third infraction will merit a parent contact. Subsequent violations of classroom rules will be referred to school administration. Consequences for referral to school administration may include break detention, ISS, Saturday School, or other consequences at the discretion of the administrator handling the referral.