

Coronado High School Guitar Program

Expectations and Policies for Intermediate, Advanced, and Year-4

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Materials Needed

Materials needed during class *every day*:

Binder – 1-inch, 3-ring, and sturdy. Please no binders with velcro. Binders should be “stage-presentable”.

Picks – It is recommended to have a variety of thicknesses. No thumbpicks or picks made from metal.

Pencil – Pencil should have an eraser. This is needed for “write-ins” on music. Pens are not recommended

Materials needed for at-home practicing:

Guitar – An at-home guitar is required. A nylon string guitar is suggested since it is what is used in class.

Music stand – A music stand is an *absolute necessity* for any musician's practice area.

Footstool – An adjustable footstool is recommended for practice as this is what is used in our performances

Practicing

Practicing at home on a daily basis is a requirement of the class. A scheduled time should be set up every day to practice. Ensemble participants should be practicing repertoire *at least 45 minutes to one hour every day* (beyond class time). Even more dedication is required if the student plans to perform as a soloist, audition for honor ensembles, or audition for colleges/universities.

Practice Area

It is very important that the practice area mimic a performance stage. Therefore, a proper chair and music stand are necessary. Although it may seem counterintuitive, the best places to set up practice areas are in a family area of the home that is away from the TV (not in a bedroom or in a closed-off area). The reasoning for this is two-fold. First, bedrooms are notoriously terrible places to practice as there is the temptation to sit on the bed (in an awful playing position). Second, in a family area, the student will be more aware of their performance since others can potentially overhear. This motivates the student to not only recognize mistakes but address them. This may seem disruptive to the rest of the household, but is a small price to pay for the development of a confident and skilled musician. Even minute details of a practice regiment have far-reaching results.

There are many theories of how to practice and all have their merits. For the purposes of success in this program it is recommended that students review the prezi linked on the website regarding effective practicing strategies.

Event Etiquette and Standards of Behavior

The CHS Guitar ensembles perform publicly as well as travel several times during the school year. For this reason, the standards of behavior for students is well above those of the general student.

Performing Arts is an etiquette sensitive discipline. Above and beyond class rules, students are expected to demonstrate proper audience etiquette. This includes proper listening and applause etiquette during classroom performances and extends to performing events both at school and at other locations. Students in performing ensembles should strive to continue the CHS Guitar Program's history of excellence both on and off stage. This includes respectful behavior towards other students, other teachers, guest clinicians/directors, as well as towards the facilities and equipment that we are guests to.

The CHS Guitar Program adheres to the **School-Wide Progressive Discipline Plan** (1st Violation = Warning; 2nd Violation = Parent Contact; 3rd Violation = Teacher Intervention (referral); Future Violations = Referral to Discipline Office. It should be noted that it is exceedingly rare to use classroom discipline procedures with the CHS Guitar Ensemble students who have already proven their good behavior in previous years. That being said, if a student is a constant, consistent disruption or behavior issue, the result could be removal from the program or denial of promotion. Behavior issues include consistent truancy or tardies, disruption of rehearsals, or disrespectful behavior *to anyone* (teachers, students, audience, etc.), infractions related to controlled substances, theft, fighting, bullying (*including, and especially cyberbullying*), and defacing program equipment. **School-Wide Tardy Policy** (1st Tardy = Warning; 2nd Tardy = Warning; 3rd Tardy = Teacher contact home; 4th Tardy = Deans call home; 5th Tardy = Deans' Detention; 6th Tardy = RPC)

Quarter Grading Policies

Quarter grading categories:

Participation - 5 points per day (25%)

Preparedness – Two - three music checks per quarter (25%)

Ensemble Activities - Concerts/events as well as required after-school rehearsals or meetings (30%)

Outside/Solo Performances - Outside event(s) and/or solo performances within the quarter (10%)

Classwork/Homework/Paperwork/Other – (10%)

Quarter grades are calculated on points earned over possible. Points possible as well as category weights vary due to event scheduling.

Preparedness

Assessments to gauge students' preparedness for rehearsal are given. Students in Intermediate will play roughly 10 measures of music per check. Advanced and Year-4 students will play roughly 20 measures per check. The assessments are "tick"-style, so there will be a 5 point deduction for each measure played incorrectly and/or for false starts. Retakes can only have a maximum of 75 %. Retakes that are at least two days later can only have a maximum of 50%. *It is highly suggested that students create small chamber ensembles to perform assessments as it is easier to count and to ensure correct notes are played.*

Ensemble Activities

Each quarter there is one seasonal, on-campus concert (Fall Concert, Winter Concert, PreFest Concert, and Awards Recital) worth 200 points. Students who are absent from these events without prior notice receive a zero. Students who are late for call-time to events are deducted 50 points. Students out of concert attire will be deducted 50 points and may be asked to not perform (and counted absent). Also included in this category are any required before-, during-, or after-school rehearsals, meetings, or events (for example: Performing Arts Assembly rehearsal, fundraising meetings, Freshman Orientation, etc.). Excuses from concert events must be submitted at least two weeks in advance. Excuses do not include work schedules or transportation issues. For excused absences from concerts there is no makeup assignment. Instead, the concert grade is fully exempted, leaving the other categories to determine the quarter grade.

Outside event (-10%)

Every student is expected to participate, perform, and/or compete in at least one large outside event and/or several smaller events. Per quarter every student must complete 100 points, based on the system below. Completing more than 100 points within a quarter results in carry-over to the next quarter.

- On-campus Performance: 50
- Concert Solo Performance: 100
- Multi-day Trip: 100
- Major Performance w/ Rehearsals: 200

Semester Grading Policies

Semester Grading Breakdown: Quarter 1 Grade (40%), Quarter 2 Grade (40%), and Semester Exam (20%).

Semester Exams will be a performance exam of two solo repertoire pieces, each worth 10% of the overall semester grade. Each student must perform either an in-class recital or create a video portfolio of repertoire. Also as part of the performance exam, each student will be graded pass/fail on scales and chords (key and tonality dependent on semester and level). Semester exam plans for each student will be recorded on grading contracts which will delineate what, when, where, and how each exam will be assessed. Performance Exams should be completed well ahead of the actual exam days. If solo or ensemble repertoire covers any of the exam chords or scale patterns, that portion of the exam is waived; if the ensemble receives a I at CCSD Guitar Festival in the scales category, the exam scales will be waived.

Solo Repertoire

Every student in Intermediate, Advanced, and Year-4 is required to learn and memorize two pieces of new repertoire for the semester exams. All repertoire is to be completed as perfect as humanly possible. The level system used in the CHS Guitar Program is based on existing systems but adapted for the yearly benchmark expectations of students within this specific program of study. Level I repertoire is generally for Intermediate Guitar students, Level II for Advanced, and Level III for Year-4. Each level of repertoire is divided into performance pieces and studies. Students must perform at least three pieces from one level to be able to choose repertoire from the next. Repertoire that is not fully completed within the quarter will receive 50% or lower (depending on amount of errors). Missing repertoire receives a zero grade and also affects the student's placement for next year (denial of promotion, demotion, or removal from program).

Performance Attire

Performance attire is all black. Black dress pants (no jeans), black, long-sleeve, button-front dress shirt or blouse, black socks/hose, black dress shoes (no skate shoes, tennis shoes, or work/combat boots), black belt, and a black tie. Your shirt is to be tucked in, pants are to be worn at a reasonable height, and your overall attire should be clean, ironed, and presentable. This attire should be in accordance with the Coronado HS dress code. Students not wearing the above attire will either receive a deduction in their Performance grade (see Grading Policies), or in extreme cases, not be permitted to perform (resulting in a zero grade). Please, no excessive jewelry such as bracelets, large necklaces, etc. No leggings or yoga pants. Students should avoid visible and audible distractions in their attire (key chains on outside of pockets, lanyards, bright socks, sunglasses, etc.). Students hairstyles that are not regular to that student should also be avoided (i.e. please do not use spray hair dye or style a mohawk for a concert if it is not your usual appearance).

Fundraising

Fundraising is essential for the maintenance and improvement of the Guitar Program. All students are expected to participate actively in fundraisers as they directly benefit from fundraising. The profit raised by the student will go directly towards that student's travel expenses after they meet the "program minimum" (different for each fundraiser).

Fingernails

Fingernails are a focus of a successful guitarist. For all guitarists, trimmed left hand fingernails are necessary. Having long nails (or acrylics), hinder the proper fretting of the strings, cause muting of strings, and result in an overall poor sound. No leniency will be given on playing tests/quizzes due to poor sound caused by long left hand nails. On the other hand, properly shaped right hand fingernails are encouraged for any guitarist interested in getting the fullest tone from fingerstyle techniques. *Advanced and Year-4 guitarists are required to demonstrate proper right hand fingernail maintenance.*

Student Placement

Students are placed in the appropriate level of Guitar (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), based on experience and previous course success. Beginning Guitar is an open elective to any and all students regardless of experience. Intermediate Guitar is open to those students who passed both semesters of Beginning Guitar with a grade of B or better and citizenship of "S" or "O" OR auditioned students who can read standard music notation for guitar. Advanced Guitar and Year-4 is reserved for those students who have previous guitar ensemble experience. Students without prior guitar ensemble experience will not be enrolled in Advanced Guitar or Year-4.

Classroom Instruments

All students will be able to use a school-owned instrument during class; the parent and student will be personally responsible for any damage to an instrument while in the student's care. Each student will be assigned a guitar for the year. Each guitar is thoroughly photographed by the teacher at the time of assigning and all preexisting damage (including superficial flaws) is documented. Each guitar is checked several times per school year by the instructor for new damage. It is the student's responsibility to report damage as soon as it is discovered. This guitar is for classroom and event use only. As classroom guitars are used by multiple classes, reporting damage as soon as it occurs is extremely important. If new significant damage is discovered by the instructor and no reports have been given, all students assigned to that instrument will be charged fines (see below).

Parents and students should be aware that the replacement cost for the classroom guitars range from \$500 to \$650. Most of the damage to the school guitars is due to carelessness. Students who are consistently careless with their assigned instrument (taking the guitar out of the case incorrectly, handling the guitar or case in an inappropriate manner, carrying the guitar inappropriately, dropping the guitar, using the pick aggressively, etc.) will be charged 10% of the replacement cost of the instrument. In the event that new damage is found, even superficial, a carelessness charge will be applied. This carelessness charge also applies to cases and music stands as well. Students who willfully vandalize instruments will be charged 25% of the replacement cost of the instrument (and removed from the guitar program). If vandalism is extreme to where the guitar cannot be used in performance, full replacement cost will be charged/fined.

Course Curriculum

The course curriculum spans several pages of overarching competencies and learning objectives. Please visit dr-nishimoto.com to view these documents. Daily lesson plans and vocabulary are also posted on the instruction calendar.

Guitar Handbook Agreement

Please visit the classroom website and include the following forms along with this:

1. Media Release Form

If permission is not granted, your child cannot appear in any photos of the ensemble/events and their name will not appear in concert programs.

2. Medical Permission Form

*Please carefully read this document and complete all blanks regarding insurance, incomplete forms cannot be accepted.
This form is required for travel to CCSD sponsored events throughout the year (Festival, Honor Guitar, etc.)*

3. Field Trip Permit

*Please be sure that you sign on the correct line!
This form is required for travel to CCSD sponsored events throughout the year (Festival, Honor Guitar, etc.)*

4. Coronado WebStore Receipt for Guitar Class Fee (\$40)

The class fee is payable via the Coronado High School WebStore (linked on the website). Please print the receipt to turn it in with this form. You may also pay \$40 cash or check payable to Coronado High School, but the Webstore is the preferable payment method as cash/checks are only accepted after school on certain dates.

Only one parent signature is necessary

Please Print Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Please Print Parent Name(s): _____

Parent E-mail(s): _____

Parent Phone Number(s): _____

By signing below I agree to the following:

- I have read this handbook and understand the procedures and policies
- I agree to follow and support these procedures and policies
- I understand that school-owned instruments and equipment will be used in the classroom, and that the parent and student will be personally responsible for the cost to repair or replace any instrument or equipment that is damaged while being used/misused by the student. ***This includes accidental damage.***

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return only this page of the handbook, not the entire document.

Including this page, there should be five (5) documents to return.

A Message from Principal Piccininni:

The teachers, administrators, and faculty of Coronado High School care deeply about each and every one of our students. We understand that at times the culmination of academics, athletics, and after school activities can be challenging or even overwhelming. It is our hope to ensure that both academic/social progress AND student mental health and well-being are top considerations in all we do at Coronado. Accordingly, if you have any concerns regarding your student's progress or emotional well being, please call our school at 702-799-6800 so we can work with your family to find resolution and create the optimal learning environment for both achievement and happiness. This is a goal we strive for every day.