

School District of Springfield Township

Springfield Township High School Course Overview

Course Name Guitar Lab

Course Description

The Guitar Lab course is designed as an exploration for students interested in developing basic guitar skills including standard tuning, alternate tunings, major, minor, and pentatonic scales, chords, strumming, finger picking, and walking bass lines. Students complete the course with live performances, video, and audio recordings. Limit: 15 students per semester

Unit Titles

Unit One: Basic Knowledge and Skills

Unit Two: Reading and Interpreting guitar music

Unit Three: Performing in Public

Essential Questions

1. How does a person develop a skill like playing a musical instrument?
2. In what ways can a person communicate musical information?
3. How do scales determine the tonality of a piece of music?
4. What kinds of motion does the meter of a selection inspire?
5. Can you relate preparing for a performance to preparing for other events/responsibilities in your life?

Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

- Playing the guitar is a skill and skills are developed through practice and experience.
- Reading and writing music is a viable form of communication.
- Scales are the basis of all melodic and harmonic function.
- Meter provides a musical framework in time and inspires movement in the listener.
- Performance is the primary goal of all musical preparation and rehearsal.

Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures

- Unit One: Guitar anatomy, tuning the guitar, folk chords, barre chords, power chords
- Unit Two: Reading tabs, reading music, finger picking, tonality, scales, meter, soloing/improvisation
- Unit Three: Make selections, prepare, rehearse and polish, performance

Core Vocabulary

Associate, define, demonstrate, describe, determine, develop, distinguish among, evaluate, identify, perform, recognize, synthesize.

Core Resources

Class Guitars, STHS Guitar Lab Lesson/Practice Book, digital tuners and metronomes, digital recording software and hardware, Mp3 recordings, guitar tab websites, and YouTube and other video sites.

Pennsylvania State Standards

- 9.1.12.A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.
- 9.1.12.B Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce review and revise original works in the arts.
- 9.1.12.C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms.
- 9.1.12.G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions.
- 9.3.8.A Know and use the critical process of the examination of works in the arts and humanities.

Prepared October 2010—CG

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