

Arts Education

Guitar I Curriculum

Guitar I Curriculum

Arlington Public Schools
Arts Education

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June, 2008

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Introduction:

The Guitar I Curriculum is intended for middle school and high school students who are beginning their guitar studies. The Guitar 1 curriculum provides a framework for instruction that introduces a variety of musical genres, as well as solo and ensemble repertoire. Although generally designed for beginners, the Curriculum takes into account students who have a variety of musical backgrounds.

Students come to APS guitar classes with a wide range of skills. Some play other instruments, some play guitar quite well, some are proficient music readers, some are not. Guitar classes are designed so that each student will progress from his or her level over the course of the year. Guitar instruction is highly differentiated and endeavors to meet the technical and artistic needs of the diverse guitar players who register for the class.

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SOL Strand	Element	GUITAR I: Minimum Standard	Date of Assessment
Performance Skill	Melody	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	
Enduring Understanding: Knowledge of the guitar fingerboard and guitar positions is essential in playing melodies.			
Essential Question: How does a guitarist make use of the full range of the guitar's melodic capabilities?			
		Read melodies from both <i>standard notation</i> and <i>guitar tablature</i> .	
		Introduce the concept of position playing. Play melodies fluently in <i>first position</i> : introduce positions up to the 5 th position.	
		Understand, read, and play movable <i>major</i> and <i>pentatonic scale</i> forms in quarter notes with mm=60.	
		Demonstrate an understanding of <i>melodic phrasing</i> .	
		Demonstrate the ability to tune the guitar.	
Performance Skill	Rhythm	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
Enduring Understanding: In an ensemble, rhythm is the element of music that holds an ensemble together.			
Essential Question: What skills are needed to read and play rhythms accurately?			
		Perform, understand, and read rhythms incorporating <i>whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes</i> and <i>rests</i> .	
		Perform, understand, and read eighth note <i>triplets</i> .	
		Read, understand, and perform <i>syncopation</i> rhythms of dotted quarter/eighth and eighth/dotted quarter note combinations.	

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		Understand <i>simple</i> and <i>compound time signatures</i> to include 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, and <i>alla breve</i> (cut time).	
		Understand <i>anacrusis</i> (pickup notes) and their usage.	
		Recognize and understand the use of <i>tied notes</i> .	
Performance Skill	Accompaniment	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <p>The guitar can provide harmonic accompaniment to a song by playing supportive chords.</p> <p>The guitar can provide countermelodies and simple polyphony that will enhance the harmonic texture of the music.</p> <p>Chords and other harmonic accompaniments can be played in a variety of ways.</p>			
<p>Essential Questions:</p> <p>How are chords performed on the guitar?</p> <p>How do guitarists know which chords to play?</p> <p>Are there a variety of picking and strumming styles related to playing chords and other harmonic accompaniment?</p>			
		Read and play <i>I, IV, and V₇ chords</i> in the keys of C, G, D, A, and E major, and <i>I, iv, V₇</i> in D, A, and E minor.	
		Read and play <i>I, vi, ii, V₇ chords</i> in the keys of C, G, and D major and the parallel minor keys.	
		Read accompaniment rhythm patterns from both standard staff notation and chord symbols with hash marks rhythmic notation.	
		Read and perform simple polyphony and counterpoint from classical guitar literature.	
		Perform, understand, and have knowledge of the written form of basic folk style <i>fingerpicking</i> patterns such as Travis picking, P.I.M.A., and classical patterns.	

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Performance Skill	Musical Design	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
Enduring Understanding:			
The structure of a piece of music is called musical form or musical design.			
Essential Question:			
What musical forms are most common in pop, folk, and classical music played by the guitar?			
		Perform, understand, and have knowledge of the written form of <i>AB, ABA, ABC, AABB, AABA</i> , and <i>12 bar blues</i> song forms.	
		Read, understand, and perform 2-part guitar ensemble music; introduce 3 and 4-part guitar ensemble music.	
		Read and perform 2-part music in which one part plays the melody while the second part plays the accompaniment.	
Performance Skill	Expressive Elements	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
Enduring Understanding:			
Dynamics, tempo changes, and performance techniques give an expressive quality to music.			
Essential Question:			
What skills are needed to play the guitar expressively?			
		Demonstrate an understanding of <i>p, f, mp, mf, pp</i> , and <i>ff</i> .	
		Demonstrate an understanding of <i>crescendo</i> , <i>decrescendo</i> and <i>subito</i> .	
		Demonstrate an understanding of <i>legato</i> , <i>staccato</i> , <i>accent</i> , and <i>tenuto</i> .	

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		Demonstrate an understanding of various tempi to include <i>Andante</i> , <i>Moderato</i> , <i>Allegro</i> , <i>Presto</i> , <i>Largo</i> and <i>Lento</i> .	
		Demonstrate an understanding of tempo changes to include <i>accelerando</i> , <i>ritardando</i> , and <i>fermata</i> .	
Performance Skill	Timbre	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
Enduring Understanding:			
Techniques idiomatic to the guitar can produce a variety of tonal colors.			
Essential Question:			
What are the various ways to produce guitar sound with the right hand?			
		Demonstrate ability to produce tones that are clear, sustained, and with correct intonation utilizing the flesh of the thumb, a plastic plectrum, or standard western classical style right hand technique (P.I.M.A). The classical manicure is introduced.	
		Demonstrate an understanding of the use of <i>ponticello</i> and <i>tasto</i> effects.	
		Demonstrate an understanding of natural and artificial <i>harmonics</i> .	

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Musical Knowledge	Melody	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <p>Music notation tells the musician what to play and how to play.</p> <p>The ability to read music allows a musician to perform music that is unknown.</p>			
<p>Essential Questions:</p> <p>Will knowing how to read music and understanding how music is designed help the guitarist's performing ability?</p>			
		Read, understand, and perform <i>melodic patterns</i> in either <i>treble clef</i> or <i>tablature</i> .	
		Recognize and understand the use of <i>key signatures</i> .	
		Recognize and understand the use of <i>accidentals</i> .	
		Recognize and understand the concept of <i>melodic sequence</i> .	
		Recognize and understand <i>interval relationships</i> .	
Musical Knowledge	Rhythm	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Demonstrate an understanding of the <i>subdivision of the beat</i> from <i>whole</i> to <i>sixteenth notes</i> .	
		Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of <i>time signatures</i> .	
		Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of <i>pickup notes</i> and their purpose.	
		Demonstrate an understanding of the concept and usage of the <i>tie</i> .	

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Musical Knowledge	Accompaniment	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Assessment
		Identify <i>chord spelling</i> , and develop <i>simple bass lines</i> for <i>I, IV, V₇</i> in keys of C, G, D, and A major and in the parallel minor keys.	
		Identify chord spelling of <i>I, vi, ii, V₇</i> in the keys of C, G, and D major.	
		Identify the <i>12 bar blues</i> form.	
Musical Knowledge	Musical Design	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Identify <i>AB, ABA, ABC, AABB, AABA</i> , and <i>12 bar blues</i> song forms.	
		Identify various guitar genres by sound to include classical, jazz, folk, rock, and blues.	
Musical Knowledge	Expressive Elements	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Identify dynamic markings such as <i>p, f, mp, mf, pp, ff, crescendo, decrescendo</i> and <i>subito</i> .	
		Identify by sound, examples <i>legato, staccato, accent</i> , and <i>tenuto</i> .	
		Identify by sound, changes in <i>tempi</i> to include <i>Andante, Moderato, Allegro, Presto, Largo</i> , and <i>Lento</i> .	
		Identify by sound, the use of <i>accelerando, ritardando</i> , and <i>fermata</i> .	
Musical Knowledge	Timbre	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Identify by sound, guitars playing either <i>ponticello</i> or <i>tasto</i> .	
		Understand how to produce a clear, sustained tone with correct intonation.	
		Identify by sound the use of <i>harmonics</i> in guitar literature.	

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Musical Knowledge	Instrument Care	Guitar I student will be Able to:	Date of Assessment
		Understand the basic parts of the guitar and be able to name the parts.	
		Understand basic hand and body position and be able to demonstrate correct playing technique.	
		Understand how to take proper care of the guitar.	

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SOL Strand: Improvising, Composing, Arranging		Guitar I Curriculum	Date of Assessment
<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <p>Music that is created in the moment is called improvisation.</p> <p>Music that is conceived, notated, and edited before the performance is composed.</p> <p>Music that takes a known element and treats it a new way is called an arrangement.</p> <p>The creation of music is an essential skill for musicians.</p>			
<p>Essential Questions:</p> <p>What guidelines and parameters are needed to be successful in improvising? In composing? In arranging?</p>			
Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Melody	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Compose and improvise melodies drawn from major, minor, pentatonic, and blues scales.	
Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Rhythm	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assessment
		Utilize all subdivisions of the whole note through the sixteenth note in compositions and improvisations.	
		Utilize dotted quarter/eighth note and eighth note triplet syncopations in compositions and improvisations.	

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Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Accompan- iment	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assess- ment
		Improvise chord rhythms in 2/4 and 4/4 time.	
		Utilize all subdivisions of the whole note through the eighth note in choral rhythm patterns.	
		Utilize dotted quarter/eighth note and eighth note triplet syncopations in choral rhythm patterns.	
		Compose and/or improvise accompaniments using a lead sheet.	
		Arrange duets and/or trios using a lead sheet.	
Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Musical Design	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assess- ment
		Compose a simple song in either, AB, ABA, ABC, AABB, AABA, or 12 bar blues form.	
Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Expressive Elements	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assess- ment
		Utilize dynamic markings such as <i>p, f, mp, mf, pp, ff, crescendo, decrescendo</i> , and <i>subito</i> in a simple composition or improvisation.	
		Utilize <i>legato, staccato, accent</i> , and <i>tenuto</i> in a simple composition or improvisation.	
		Utilize changes in tempi to include <i>Andante, Moderato, Allegro, Presto, Largo</i> , and <i>Lento</i> in a simple composition or improvisation.	
		Utilize <i>accelerando, ritardando</i> , and <i>fermata</i> in a simple composition or improvisation.	

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Improvising, Composing, Arranging	Timbre	Guitar I Student Will Be Able To:	Date of Assess- ment
		Utilize <i>ponticello</i> or <i>tasto</i> effects in a simple composition or improvisation.	
		Utilize <i>harmonics</i> in a simple composition or improvisation.	
SOL Strand: Arts Relationships		Guitar I Curriculum	Date of Assess- ment
<p>Enduring Understanding:</p> <p>The guitar is used in many musical cultures worldwide.</p> <p>As an instrument of the people, the musical idioms played with the guitar represent those that are close to the customs and cultural life of a society.</p>			
<p>Essential Question:</p> <p>What are the various musical genres and musical cultures that feature the use of the guitar?</p>			
		Recognize various guitar genres from other cultures to include those from Spain and South America.	
		Understand the ubiquitous use of the guitar in pop/folk/film music and its relationship to American social and cultural life.	

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Guitar Vocabulary and Music Terminology for Guitar I

AB	Largo
ABA	Legato
ABC	Lento
AABB	major scale
AABA	melodic patterns
<i>accelerando</i>	melodic phrase
accent,	melodic sequence
accidentals	Moderato
Alla Breve (cut time)	note values and rests: whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth
Allegro	pentatonic scale
anacrusis - pickup note(s)	<i>ponticello</i>
Andante	Presto
chord progression: I, IV, and V ₇ I, vi, ii, V ₇	<i>ritardando</i>
chord symbols	simple meter
compound meter	standard notation
<i>crescendo</i>	simple meter
<i>decrescendo</i>	<i>staccato</i>
dynamic marking: <i>p, f, mp, mf, pp, ff</i>	subdivision of the beat
fermata	<i>subito</i>
fingerpicking	Syncopation
first position	<i>tasto</i>
guitar tablature	<i>tenuto</i>
harmonics	tied notes
hash marks	time signatures
Intervals	treble clef
Key signature	triplets
	12 bar blues