

Beginning/6th Grade Semester 1

Unit 1 (6th Grade Sem 1): Guitar Basics

(Standard: Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Types of guitars
 - Acoustic and Electric
 - Historical background and cultural influence of both Acoustic and Electric guitars
- Instrument care
- Parts of the guitar
- Guitar technique
 - Posture
 - Holding the guitar
 - Placing fingers
- Finger dexterity and independence

Unit 2 (6th grade Sem. 1): Getting to Know Your Guitar

(Standard: Nov.Mu:H.Cr2)

- Musical alphabet including octaves
- Standard Tuning
- String names
- Finger picking/pick (Note: Develop both styles and reinforce throughout courses)

Unit 3 (6th grade Sem. 1): Rhythm Standard Music Notation

(Standards: Nov.Mu:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Cn10)

- Rhythm
 - Tempo: bpm and metronome marking
 - Whole, half, quarter notes, and rests
 - Counting rhythms
- Time signature: common time (4/4)
- Bar, measure, double bar
- Dynamics (pp, p, f, ff)
- Improvisation on open strings
 - Using whole, half, and quarter notes

Middle School Guitar Course of Study

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Unit 4 (6th grade Sem. 1): Melodic Notation

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Cn10)

- Treble clef staff names
- Melody - playing melodies on 2 strings
- Sharps (#) and flats (b)
- Explore and improvise on the fretboard
- Chromatic scale (1-2 octaves)
 - Whole step and half step

Unit 5 (6th grade Sem. 1): Key Signatures

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- First 5 note scale
 - Scale degrees 1-5
 - G Major
 - C Major
- Reading melodic tablature
- Write melodic tablature

Unit 6 (6th grade Sem. 1): Introduction to Harmony

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Cn11)

- How to read a fingering chart (chord symbols)
- Playing G major and C major chords (strummed and arpeggiated)
 - Repertoire examples “La Cucaracha”; “Best Day of My Life” by American Authors
- Reading harmonic tablature
- Writing harmonic tablature with rhythms
- Explore and improvise
- Strumming patterns in quarter notes

Unit 7 (6th grade Sem. 1): Exploring G & C Major

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Major scale pattern (WWHWWWH)
 - Scale degrees (1-8/1)
- G & C major scale: whole & half notes (1 octave)
 - Explore and improvise
- Play melodies in G major and C major
 - Standard notation and tablature
 - Use Lead Sheets
- Introduce song form

Beginning/6th Grade Semester 2

Unit 8 (6th grade Sem. 2): Semester 1 Review

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Review C major and G major chords
 - Review scales and scale degrees
- Read tablature and chord progressions
- Accompany short melodies in common time (4/4)
- Read and play melodies in standard notation and tablature

Unit 9 (6th grade Sem. 2): 3/4 Time, D Major and A Major

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Re9, Nov.MU:H.Cn10, Nov.MU:H.Cn11)

- Introduce D and A major chords
 - Explore and improvise
- Introduce 3/4 time
- Introduce dotted half note and rest
- Triple meter strumming patterns
- Improvise in 3/4 time
 - Melody and chords in G, C, D Major
- Introduce new repertoire styles
 - Mariachi: (examples: “Tu Solo Tu;” “El Rey;” “Las Laureles,” “Cielito Lindo”)
 - Pop Tunes: (examples: “Sweet Home Alabama”, “I’m Yours”; Leaving On A Jet Plane)

Unit 10 (6th grade Sem. 2): Eighth Notes and Rests

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Eighth note and rest rhythms
 - Counting, writing, reading standard notation and tablature, strumming, finger picking
 - Introduction of accents using downbeats and upbeats
 - Explore and improvise
- Play chromatic scale in quarter and eighth notes, one octave



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Unit 11 (6th grade Sem. 2): Barred Chords and Introduction to Chord Quality

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Barred Chords: F major
- Chord Symbols and Tablature using C, G and F Major
 - Play melody and chords (class duets)
- Chord Quality: Major/ Minor: ear training, learning A minor and E minor
 - Explore and improvise
- Reading lead sheets
- Writing and creating lead sheets
- Play repertoire using Major and Minor chords reading Lead Sheets

Unit 12: (6th grade Sem. 2) Progressions Using I - IV - V - vi Chords

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Play songs using Progressions: I - IV - V - vi
 - Play melody and chords in tab & standard notation
 - Strum and arpeggiate chords
- 7th Chords: G7: strum & arpeggiate C major, F major, A minor, G7
 - Explore and improvise

Intermediate/7th Grade Semester 1

Unit 13: (7th grade Sem. 1) Review

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Review tuning and tuning techniques
- Review rhythms (Eighth, Quarter, Half and Whole rests and notes)
- Review 3/4 time signature:
 - Play short melodies (For Example: Lion Sleeps Tonight; De Colores)
 - 3/4 strumming patterns
- Play C major, F Major, G7, and A minor via tablature (8th notes strumming patterns) and chord symbols
 - Review arpeggiation of chords
- Review Chord Progression: I - IV - V - vi in C major

Unit 14 (7th grade Sem. 1): Rock and Pop Styles

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.1, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Re8, Nov.MU:H.Re9, Nov.MU:H.Cn10, Nov.MU:H.Cn11)

- History of Rock and Pop
- 7th Chords: review G7 and learn D7 and A7
 Rock/pop style repertoire in G major, D major, C major
 - Examples: “La Bamba,” “La Paloma” “Viva La Vida” “Feliz Navidad”
 - I - IV - V
 - Play melody and chords
- Rock/Pop Guitar: Rhythmic vs. lead guitar with a focus on Rhythmic
 - Guided listening for style of rhythmic guitar
 - Mimic various strumming patterns in given listening examples
 - Explore and Improve

Unit 15 (7th grade Sem. 1): Melodic Composition

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr2, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.1, Nov.MU:H.Cn10)

- Melodic improvisation over I - IV - V - vi chords
- Students create chord progression for a provided melody
- Composition
 - Provided chord progression in C, G, or D major
 - Students create 4-8 measure melody in standard notation and tablature with rhythm
 - Revise and critique as needed

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Unit 16 (7th grade Sem. 1): The Blues

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Re8, Nov.MU:H.Re9, Nov.MU:H.Cn10, Nov.MU:H.Cn11)

- History of the Blues
- C and G Pentatonic Scale
- Perform songs using the pentatonic scale
 - Examples: spirituals, Native American, West African, and Asian melodies
- Blues scale and chord progression (blocked and arpeggiated)
- Call and response
- Improvisation using the pentatonic scale over given blues chord progression

Unit 17 (7th grade Sem. 1): Lead Guitar

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Int.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.3, Int.MU:H.Pr4.3, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Int.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.1, Int.MU:H.Re7.1, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Cn10)

- Lead Guitar vs. Rhythmic Guitar
 - Guided listening for style of lead guitar
- Ear Training:
 - Play short melodic and harmonic ideas by ear
 - Finding the key/ scale
- Select and play a short melodic excerpt of student's choice by ear

Intermediate/7th Grade Semester 2

Unit 18 (7th grade Sem. 2) Review

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Int.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.2, Nov.MU:H.Re8, Int.MU:H.Re8, Nov.MU:H.Cn10, Int.MU:H.Cn10, Nov.MU:H.Cn11)

- Review all major, pentatonic scales, and blues scales
- Play melody and chords of various repertoire in 3/4 and common time (4/4) time signatures
 - C major and D major
 - Standard notation and tablature
- Improvise over the Blues progression, using the pentatonic scale
- Review writing tablature and standard notation

Unit 19 (7th grade Sem. 2): Sixteenth Notes

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Teach sixteenth notes
 - Strumming with sixteenth notes
 - Play melodies with sixteenth notes
 - Explore and improvise with sixteenth notes

Unit 20 (7th grade Sem. 2): Dotted Eighth-Sixteenth Notes and Rhythms

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Introduce dotted eighth-sixteenth rhythms
 - Counting, writing, reading standard notation and tablature, strumming
 - Strum chords in straight eighth notes and sixteenth notes
 - Strum chords in dotted eighth note rhythms
 - Strum chords in straight, swung and “shuffled” eighth and sixteenth rhythms
 - Arpeggiate chords in straight, swung and “shuffled” eighth, and sixteenth rhythms
 - Explore and improvise using dotted eighth - sixteenth rhythms
- Play repertoire in standard notation and tablature that includes a variety of note values

Unit 21 (7th grade Sem. 2): A Major Scale and Key Signature

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Cr1, Int.MU:H.Cr1, Nov.MU:H.Cr2, Int.MU:H.Cr2, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.1, Int.MU:H.Cr3.1, Nov.MU:H.Cr3.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.1, Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr5, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Nov.MU:H.Re7.1, Int.MU:H.Re7.1, Nov.MU:H.Cn10, Int.MU:H.Cn10)

- Teach E and E7 major chords
- Play repertoire in A major (I-IV-V chords)
 - Introduction to A Major Key Signature
- Play one octave, A major scale reading standard notation and melodic tablature
- Improvise and compose melodies and chord progressions in A Major

Advanced/8th Grade Semester 1

Unit 22: (8th grade Sem. 1) Review

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6)

- Play various chord progressions, using the I - IV - V - vi chords in C major and G major
 - Review 8th and dotted 8th note strumming patterns (straight, swung and “shuffled”)
 - Common time (4/4) and 3/4 time signatures
 - Review 16th note strumming patterns
- Review chords: E Major, A Major, E7 and A7

Unit 23: (8th grade Sem. 1): E Major and D Major

(Standards: Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Int.MU:H.Pr6)

- Review major scales (write in standard notation, and play one octave)
 - C major, G major, A major in 8th and 16th note rhythms
- E major scale
 - Play one octave, E major scale reading standard notation and melodic tablature
 - Introduce B7 chord
 - Play melodic repertoire in E major in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures
 - Accompany melodies in E major in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures (I - IV - V)
 - Explore and Improvise
- D major scale
 - Play one octave, D major scale reading standard notation and melodic tablature
 - Introduce Bm chord
 - Play melodic repertoire in D major in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures
 - Accompany melodies in D major in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures (I - IV - V - vi)
 - Explore and Improvise
- Pentatonic scales in E Major and D Major
 - Play one octave in E Major and D Major
 - Provide chords for given melodies in E Major and D Major
 - Explore melodic improvisation

Unit 24 (8th grade Sem. 1): E Major and D Major Composition

(Standards: Int.MU:H.Cr1, Int.MU:H.Cr2, Int.MU:H.Cr3.1, Int.MU:H.Cr3.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.1, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr5, Int.MU:H.Pr6; Int.MU:H.Re 7.1, Int.MU:H.Re8, Int.MU:H.Cn10)

- Improvise melodies in E major and D major diatonic scales over teacher provided chord progression
- Compose short melodies in E major and D major over teacher provided chord progression
- Compose chord progression to a given melody in E major and D major

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Unit 25 (8th grade Sem. 1): Harmonic Transposition

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Pr.4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr.4.6*)

- Understanding transposition
 - Transpose chords from one major key to another major key (e.g.: A Major to C Major)
 - Notate using chord symbols and tablature with rhythms
 - Play original and transposed harmonies

Unit 26 (8th grade Sem. 1): Melodic Transposition

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Pr.4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr.4.6*)

- Transpose melody from one major key to another major key (e.g., A Major to C Major)
 - Notate using standard notation and tablature with rhythms
 - Play original and transposed melodies
- Capo
 - Use capo to transpose and play melodies
 - Use capo to transpose and play harmonies

Advanced/8th Grade Semester 2

Unit 27 (8th grade Sem. 2): Review

(Standards: *Nov.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Nov.MU:H.Pr6, Int.MU:H.Pr6*)

- Review major scales (write in standard notation, and play one octave)
 - C major, G major, D major, A major and E major in quarter, 8th, and 16th notes
- Review Chromatic scale (play two octaves)
- Review chords
 - C, G, D, E, F, A Major
 - G7, D7, E7, A7, B7
 - A minor, E minor, and B minor
 - Play repertoire in multiple keys, from various cultures
- Review transposition of chords and melodies using standards notation and tablature
- Review capo and use

Unit 28 (8th grade Sem. 2): Solfege

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Pr5, Int.MU:H.Pr6, Int.MU:H.Re7.2*)

- C Major
 - Compare solfege to scale degrees and note names
 - Sing and play C major scale using solfege
 - Sing solfege while playing I - IV - V chords in C major

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Unit 29 (8th grade Sem. 2): Fixed Do for Key Signatures

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Pr6, Int.MU:H.Pr4.3, Int.MU:H.Pr4.4, Int.MU:H.Pr4.1, Int.MU:H.Re9, Int.MU:H.Cn11,*)

- Cultural Use of Fixed Do
 - “si” instead of “ti”
 - Sharps (*sostenido*) and Flats (*bemol*)
 - Rename I - IV - V - vi in C Major
 - I - IV - V - vi in G Major (*sol*)
 - Listen to and Perform music in Mexican styles: Banda, Trio, and Mariachi
 - Reflect on style and cultural context
 - Identify melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic tendencies

Unit 30 (8th grade Sem. 2): Blues Revisited

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Pr4.2, Int.MU:H.Cr3.1, Int.MU:H.Pr4.3*)

- Review blues scale and chord progression
- Reviewing Basic Song Form
 - Verse and Chorus / AB Form
 - Play various repertoire with an AB form
 - Identify AB form on paper and aurally

Unit 31 (8th grade Sem. 2): Composing in AB Form - Melody

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Cr3.1, Int.MU:H.Cr3.2, Prof.MU:H.Cr3.2*)

- Partner composition project
 - Compose melody in standard notation and tablature (including rhythm)
 - 32-48 measures
 - 3 or more chords
 - AB or ABA form
 - Use teacher provided criteria to create melody
 - Students critique composed melody
 - Improve and refine draft of melody

Unit 32 (8th grade Sem. 2): Composing in AB Form - Harmony

(Standards: *Int.MU:H.Cr1, Cr2, Cr3.1, Cr3.2, Int.MU:H.Pr4.1, Pr4.2, Pr5, Pr6; Int.MU:H.Re 7.1, Re8*)

- Building off of the partner composition project from unit 24
 - Add 2-3 chord progressions to accompany original melody from unit 24
 - 32-48 measures
 - Notate in chord symbols or tablature with rhythms
 - Use teacher provided criteria to create chord progression
 - Students critique composed chord progression
 - Improve and refine draft of melody
 - Present final draft (A melody, B chord progression and swap roles)

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Unit 33 (8th grade Sem. 2): Ensemble Performance - Planning a Concert

(Standards: *Int.H.Re7.1, Int.MU:H.Re9, Int.MU:H.Cn10, Int.MU:H.Cn11, Int.MU:H.Pr5, Int.MU:H.Pr6*)

- Repertoire Selection
 - Students select repertoire to learn from a teacher provided list of songs within students' ability levels
 - Students explain their reasoning for their selection
 - Perform selected repertoire
 - Critique concert performance