
ADDENDUM TO HANDBOOK

Welcome back (no, really this time)! Let's get ready to work! 😊

*The following sections are amendments to the existing 2021-2022 handbook. They correspond to each section and will only list changes to the handbook. Again **PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK!** 😊*

Required Daily Equipment

Normally, I encourage students to use our classroom set of guitars for in-class use. HOWEVER, if 2+ people use the same guitar a day, the odds of spreading illness increase. Because of this, I am encouraging you to bring your personal instrument every day to use in class. There are guitar lockers that you can use (for a fee) store your instrument located directly outside the guitar room.

If you chose to bring your instrument, it should be ACOUSTIC (either steel-string or nylon). If you bring your electric guitar, I will kindly ask you to take it home. If you do not wish to cart your personal instrument back and forth every day or rent a locker, you will be expected to use one of the classroom guitars (for a fee).

Guitar FEES

All fees are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED to be paid online at our website: (www.dsaguitar.weebly.com). However, I will accept cash or check if it is the only means of payment.

Locker fee (for personal guitar)=\$5.00 or Classroom Guitar Usage Fee=\$40.00 and Guitar Book Fee=\$20

If you opt to pay the locker fee, and later, feel like you would like to switch to using a classroom guitar instead, you will still need to pay the \$40 Usage Fee. Due to my lack of access to the DPS online payment system, I am unable to disperse refunds, however, I will credit the \$5 locker fee in the form of a free ticket to our concerts.

Sanitization

Classroom guitars and all surfaces will be sanitized after every usage using CDC and NAFME approved methods.

Concerts

We WILL have concerts this year. Audience members will be socially distanced and we will have sanitation gaps in between the various groups.

Please let me know if I can help with anything, I'm sure that we'll have fun with this situation as best we can and become better guitarists and people through this.

READ THE HANDBOOK!

-Marc Davis, director of guitar

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Durham
School
of the
Arts

Guitar

Handbook

Marc Davis,
Director of Guitar

Durham School of the Arts

2021-2022 Guitar Class Handbook

Guitar Classes at DSA

Director of Guitar: Marc Davis

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These classes are designed to assist students in playing the guitar. Students will receive instruction and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on all levels and will learn many of the styles, techniques and skills that are required to become successful musicians. Areas of instruction will include: correct techniques, note-reading, understanding rhythms, chord study, finger-picking techniques, aural skills, repertoire, idiomatic improvisation, and performing opportunities.

Intro to Guitar, Guitar Fundamentals and Guitar Styles Course Goals:

- To develop independence and strength in both left and right hands.
- To learn to recognize and play all notes in the first and fifth positions of the guitar.
- To learn to recognize and play elementary through intermediate-level rhythms.
- To learn various chord progressions and play the guitar as an accompaniment instrument.
- To learn to read multiple voices and play the guitar as a solo instrument.
- To learn to execute musical elements such as dynamics and timbre.
- To be able to perform two octaves Major and Minor scales in every key (Styles), most common keys (Fundamentals), major scales in common keys (Intro class).

Guitar Ensemble and Advanced Guitar Course Goals:

- To develop independence and strength in both left and right hands.
- To learn to recognize and play all notes across the entirety of the fretboard.
- To learn to recognize and play advanced-level rhythms.
- To be able to analyze and perform intermediate – advanced level chord progressions and play the guitar as an accompaniment instrument.
- To be able to read multiple voices and play the guitar as a solo instrument.
- To learn to execute at an intermediate - advanced level, musical elements such as dynamics and timbre.
- To be able to perform two octaves Major, Minor, Diminished, Augmented scales and associated modes in every key.
- To improvise lead lines in a variety of styles using appropriate harmonic and rhythmic vocabulary.

Course Objectives

- To enrich and enhance the lives of each student through the study of music.
- To develop in every student a respect for music.
- To cultivate a sense of team work and mutual respect among students
- To understand the basic elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, contour
- To introduce the music of various cultures, stylistic periods
- To understand the discipline and challenges of learning a musical instrument.
- To develop good listening and analysis skills.
- To employ learned techniques in order to create music in the guitar idiom.
- To have the opportunity to participate in live performances.

Course Description

Guitar will be the foundation for students to learn and play music in a wide variety of styles. Students will learn how to use the guitar as a solo, melodic instrument as well as how to use the guitar as an accompaniment instrument. Finger-style playing will be the primary right-hand technique used, but strumming and playing with a flat pick will be introduced as well. Students will learn left-hand techniques that include all of the notes in various fingerboard positions, scales and chords in all keys. Students will be introduced to the basics of music improvisation, composition, and music writing.

Required Daily Equipment

1. Guitar – We use CLASSICAL, NYLON STRING guitars in our program. Students MUST permanently have access to an instrument at home for practice. This instrument can be classical, electric, steel-string acoustic etc., however, it must be available to them at home. Guitars can be purchased or rented at reasonable rates from several local stores. School-owned guitars can be used for a fee – these are for **CLASSROOM USE ONLY. SCHOOL GUITARS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR HOME USE.**
2. 3-Ring binder or folder with pockets to hold sheet music and ALL class materials (CHARTS)
3. Pencil/Loose-leaf paper (plus tablature/staff paper)
4. Guitar text (Intro to Guitar, Fundamentals and Styles) and music.
5. Personal Supply of Guitar Pics (their preference)
6. Metronome and Tuner or equivalent apps.

Failure to have these required materials in class will result in the loss of daily musicianship points.

Guitar Class Fees

A classroom set of Merida Extrema nylon string guitars are available for in-class use. These are solid top instruments and are a joy to play. These are provided as a service and convenience for students because of the difficulty of transporting guitars to and from home on buses. Use of a school-owned guitar is not a substitute for owning your own guitar. Students choosing to use a school-owned guitar are responsible for paying a yearly fee of \$40. When the fee is paid, a guitar will be assigned for the student to use in class. **The \$40 fee must be paid before students will be allowed to use a school-owned guitar.** As mentioned earlier, all students are required to purchase or rent their own guitars to use for home practice.

If students plan on bringing instruments/equipment to school at any point during the year, they must rent a guitar locker with supplied combination lock. These lockers are located outside of the guitar classroom. This is for the both the security and accessibility of your instrument. The rate per locker is **\$5/year**

All students are required to obtain the necessary textbook for their respective classes. These are available through Coach Davis. The cost of these texts is **\$20 per book**. The fee can be paid by cash, personal check (separate checks for each item, please), money order, or online. You can find our DPS sponsored pay portal on our website (dsaguitar.weebly.com) under “Pay Fees”.

Guitar Recycle Program

Due to the purchase of our new classroom guitar set, we have a number of decent quality instruments available for purchase. These are IDEAL for anyone who wants to practice on a nylon string guitar at home and don't want to break the bank doing it. They range in cosmetic appearance and functionality with the best being in EXCELLENT condition and the bottom of the range needing a couple of parts to be in playing condition. They will be priced based on condition from \$75 for the better instruments all the way down to \$25. There are a limited supply of soft-shell gig bags available for each guitar at \$5 per bag.

Also, if you're looking to donate an instrument to the GRP, then contact me about said donation.

Grading Procedures

Final grades will be determined using the following criteria:

Performance/Musicianship	30%
Written Tests/Playing Evaluations	35%
Written Assignments	10%
Concerts/Performances	25%
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	100%

Instruction in all classes is focused on learning to play the guitar, therefore grading is geared to that concept. Approximately every other week, students will have a playing test (proficiency). These tests will take the form of songs, scale or pattern studies, chord studies, rhythm studies, or excerpts from group music. The student will perform these pieces for the teacher or record them for later evaluation. Grades will be based on precision and accuracy.

In addition to playing tests and proficiency requirements, there will be written tests and worksheet assignments throughout the year. Every student in the guitar class is an important part of an ensemble, and the success of the entire ensemble depends upon EVERYONE attending each performance. Unless otherwise indicated by the teacher, **PERFORMANCES ARE A REQUIRED PART OF THE CLASS AND ARE NOT OPTIONAL.** Dates and times for all performances will be announced well in advance.

Daily Musicianship Points

In order to be successful in a class such as this, **daily musicianship duties** (which includes personal attendance, preparedness, attitude and effort) are important parts of each student's assessment. Every student will begin the quarter with 100 points per each week in the quarter. Each day is worth 20 points. Students can lose points for refusal to participate, missing music or other materials, tardiness, being off task, and other non-productive activities. These deductions will negatively affect your points total in this area. Any lost daily musicianship points may not be made up.

Classroom Rules

In order to provide the best chance for student success and to maintain a positive learning experience, the following rules will be observed:

1. Follow directions. When in doubt, employ common sense.
2. Be respectful of...
 - The teacher - do not speak or play until given permission to do so.
 - The equipment - help to keep the guitars and stands clean and in good working order.
 - Each other - keep hands, feet and objects to oneself.
3. Enter class on time and be seated with guitar, music and pencil everyday.
4. Food and water in clean, contained, non-glass containers is allowed as athletes need nourishment.

Consequences for Breaking Classroom Rules

1. Verbal warning.
2. Putting instrument away for the remainder of class and complete a reflective "tacet seat assignment".
3. E-mail or phone call to parents.
4. Written behavior referral.

Class Placement

There are five levels of guitar at DSA –Intro to Guitar, Guitar Fundamentals, Guitar Styles, Guitar Ensemble, and Advanced Guitar. Every effort will be made to place a student in the appropriate level for their experience and ability. Occasionally there are scheduling factors that prevent this, but in those cases students can still be given appropriately challenging assignments. The Intro to Guitar class offers students the opportunity to explore the guitar program at DSA and decide if he/she wishes to pursue more in-depth study of the guitar. In general, students should spend two years in each of the Guitar Fundamentals and Guitar Styles classes. With the teacher's recommendation, students may progress to the next level in one year if they have a thorough understanding of the materials and skills needed. In order for a student to be considered for progression to the next level, he/she must earn a grade of "B" or better for all four quarters, **and** must demonstrate the appropriate skill level.

At DSA, all high school students must have declared at least one Area of Concentration in the Arts classes. In order to graduate, students must show consistent progress in their area, which results in a clear progression to the Completer-Level classes or ensembles. In the Guitar program, Guitar Ensemble and Advanced Guitar are completer-level classes. Guitar students should reach one of these classes by their senior year and maintain a grade of "B" or better. Advanced Guitar students earning a "C" or lower may be placed in Guitar Ensemble, and Ensemble students earning a "C" or lower may be placed in Guitar Styles.

Concerts

Live performance is a very important component to the DSA Guitar Department. Concerts are not only a place where our students display their knowledge, skill, and efforts for the audience, but it is also a chance for them to learn from each other's artistic endeavors. It is imperative that our students learn to be both good performers and audience members. Therefore, it is mandatory that students stay for the duration of their own concerts. This will be monitored with a sign-in/sign-out protocol.

Only with a reason agreed upon as acceptable between the Director of Guitar and legal guardian of the student that has been communicated no less than one week (7 days) before concert can a student leave early without penalty. The penalty for breach of concert attendance will be twenty (20) points off of their concert performance grade.

Parents and other audience members must observe proper concert etiquette. Please do not talk through the entirety of the concert. If you need to speak, please whisper to your neighbor. It is tasteful to show your appreciation via applause and cheering when appropriate. If you have small children, please keep them seated next to you at all times. If they get loud, please take them out of the auditorium until they can remain quiet. Please silence all electronic devices.

Concert Dress

The standard dress for public performances is BLACK PANTS AND WHITE SHIRTS. Socks and shoes should be black. If girls prefer to wear a dress, it should be long black with black shoes. The dress for informal performances will be decided as is appropriate for the occasion.

Parental Support Group (Guitar PSG)

For events such as concerts, volunteers will be needed to sell tickets, take up tickets, pass out programs, handle student sign-in/out for various classes, audio and/or video record, and other jobs as necessary. If you wish to lend support to the program, please sign up for the Remind system group @dsagtrhelp. To do so, text @dsagtrhelp to 81010. You can also input www.remind.com/join/dsagtrhelp into your browser to go to a signup link. E-mail Coach Davis if this does not work for you.

Volunteering for events will exempt you (and your immediate family) from the price of admission to concerts.

Concert Calendar – 2021-2022 (In Weaver Auditorium)

Intro to Guitar, Guitar Fundamentals, Guitar Styles

- Fall Concert – Wednesday Dec. 8th, 2021 (7pm)
- Spring Concert – Wednesday May 4th, 2022 (7pm)

Guitar Ensemble and Advanced Guitar

- Fall Concert – Thursday Dec. 9th, 2021 (7pm)
- Spring Concert – Thursday May 5th, 2022 (7pm)

General Admission to concerts is \$5 for everyone ages 12 and older. Ages 11 and under are free. DSA Student Admission is \$1.

In Summary:

- 1 – Guitar classes meet daily for 50 minutes – all classes are year-round.
- 2 – All students are expected to practice daily lessons outside of class.
- 3 -- All guitar class performances are required attendance.
- 4 – Students will have bi-weekly playing exams.
- 5 – Students should have their own guitar to practice at home.

Costs:

- 1 – All students are required to have a **notebook or folder** for music and worksheets, and **guitar pics**.
- 2 – Students in all guitar classes are required to purchase texts for class. These texts will be made available during class and cost **\$20**.
- 3 – Students planning to leave a guitar at school at any point during the year are required to rent a locker outside the classrooms for **\$5/year**. This is new mandatory policy per DSA.
- 4 – All students using a classroom guitar are required to pay a yearly fee of **\$40** – these guitars are to be used in class ONLY.