

**MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**MODESTO HIGH SCHOOL 2019-20**

**COURSE TITLE:** Guitar  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. Cover  
**TEXTBOOK:** In Class Hand-Outs

**OTHER MATERIALS:**

Acoustical guitar – no electric guitars  
Folder or binder  
Guitar pick(s)  
Pencil

**MAJOR UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Introduction to the Guitar and its parts  
Chords – reading and identification  
Barre Chords/Power Chords  
Strumming Patterns  
Guitar Notation – Chords, Tablature, Stand/Western  
European Notation  
Songs – Performing skills  
Composition  
Basic music theory as it applies to the guitar

**GRADING/EVALUATION POLICY:**

Since Guitar is a performance-oriented subject, students will be graded based on participation and performance in class. Units of study will include chord reading, tablature and standard music notation. Understanding rhythms and applying strumming patterns to songs. Written quizzes, a midterm and final examination will also be given.

Daily Playing/Class Participation	10 pts
Solo songs and quizzes:	10-25pts/ea
Midterm/Final	50-100 pts

The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions pertaining to the major units of instruction as well as a performed piece. These tests will be a cumulative exams.

Guitars are shared between two classes and may not be checked out or taken home. If I am in my room at 5<sup>th</sup> lunch you may come in and practice.

**METHOD OF GRADING AND SCALE:**

Total Number of Points Earned /Total Points Possible

97-100% A+	87-89% B+
94-96% A	84-86% B
90-93% A-	80-83% B-
77-79% C+	67-69% D+
74-76% C	64-66% D
70-73% C-	60-63% D-

59% and below F

**If you vandalize a guitar, you or your parents/guardians will be required to pay for its replacement. The estimated cost is \$150.00. Cases are \$100.**

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

If a student wishes to possibly bring their grade up ONE letter grade, for example a D to up to a C or a C up to a B, they have a couple of options. One option is to write a paper that would include topics such as the history and development of a major band or orchestral instrument, a biography of a major composer, or other appropriate musical topic approved by the instructor. The paper will be no more than 4 pages in length. The paper will be worth a maximum of 5 percentage points.

The second option is to attend a music performance approved by the instructor and write a summary of the event attended. Two events may be attended. Each paper will be worth a maximum of 2.5 percentage points for a maximum total of 5 percentage points.

Check with the instructor to see if you are eligible for extra credit before doing the assignment. Additional specifications will be given at the time of assignment.

**MAKE-UP PRACTICES: Students whose absence is excused shall be allowed two (2) days for each day of absence to make up work or take a test. Responsibility for making up missed work lies with the student. Refer to the *Student Conduct Code* regarding make-up practices for other types of absences.**

**HOMEWORK PRACTICES:** To insure success in Guitar, students are expected to practice in class every day. If they choose, they may purchase their own guitar and practice at home to develop better technique. Ideally, 20-30 minutes of daily practice to reinforce class materials should be sufficient for the beginning guitarist. 30 minutes to 1 hour is suggested if an intermediate student plans on growing as a musician.

Guitars are available for purchase through local music stores, online, and some stores like Target, Costco, and Walmart. Additionally they can be found at flea markets and pawn shops – but you should be careful when purchasing your guitar that you are getting a good deal. Ask Mr. Cover for details if you are interested!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Any test or assignment that a student may not keep following its return and review will be retained by the teacher for at least 9 weeks following the issuance of report cards.