

# Rocky Mountain High School

## Advanced Guitar Syllabus 2011-12

**Instructor:** Mr. DeWitt

**Room:** A3, RMHS

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**Phone:** (208) 350-4340 ext. 1501

**Class Website:** [www.rockybands.net/guitar.html](http://www.rockybands.net/guitar.html)

### REQUIRED DAILY SUPPLIES

- Acoustic guitar with hard case (no soft bags), clearly labeled with student's name.
- Guitar picks
- Class text – Mel Bay Publications, “Mastering the Guitar” (provided from the class fee). A second text will follow based on the needs and progression of the class.
- Pencils
- Clip-on electronic chromatic tuner

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students must fulfill the prerequisite of taking and passing the Beginning Guitar course, or receive instructor permission to participate. Students will continue to develop skills introduced in the Guitar 1 course with the addition of bar chords, advanced melodies, key signatures, and picking styles.

### GUITAR GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

- Review and demonstrate all skills covered in Beginning Guitar
- Demonstrate an understanding of scale degree and major/minor tonality
- Perform major, minor, pentatonic, and blues scales.
- Perform scales in the traditional modes.
- Demonstrate proper finger-picking technique for the classical position.
- Demonstrate moving finger-picking technique for folk and jazz.
- Tell the names of notes from the 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> frets on the low E, A, & D strings.
- Perform rhythms correctly, from 16<sup>th</sup> notes through whole notes.
- Perform songs from traditional notation.
- Compare and contrast notation and tablature.
- Perform songs from tablature notation.
- Play first position major and minor 7<sup>th</sup>s
- Play moveable bar chords major 7<sup>th</sup>s, minor 7<sup>th</sup>s, dominant 7, and diminished
- Change one chord type into another, e.g. major to minor
- Read Chord extensions, including symbols and abbreviations
- Identify master guitarists
- Improvise chord accompaniments to simple folk melodies
- Improvise different finger-picking patterns to simple folk melodies

### GUITAR STORAGE

Guitars may be stored in the Guitar Racks found in the RMHS Ensemble room. Guitars may only be stored in the racks. Any guitars found improperly stored will be confiscated for the rest of the day and the owner will lose that day's points. **All guitars must be taken home at the end of every school day – no exceptions.**

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### GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- **CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:** Treat peers and teachers with courtesy and respect.
  - Follow instructions the first time given and stay on task.
  - Do not talk or play during instruction.
  - Be in your assigned seat ready to participate with your guitar and music stand no later than *two minutes* after the bell.
  - Keep hands, feet, objects and guitars to yourself. The use of band and orchestra equipment in the room is not allowed.
- **PRACTICE:** Students are given the opportunity for guided practice during class. In addition, students are expected to practice at home. You will not be successful in the class without practice.
- **MISSED WORK:** Students that miss work will receive a zero for that assignment until it is made up. It is your responsibility to make up missed tests by appointment during “Griz”.
- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Cell phones, iPods etc. are to be turned off when you enter the music room. There will be occasions when these devices may be used as part of the class, but otherwise they are not to be used. Devices used without teacher permission will be confiscated until the end of the school day.
- **NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM** are allowed in the band room or practice rooms at any time. You will be asked to throw it away or sent to take it to your locker.
- RMHS discipline policy is swiftly and strongly administered to students who choose to make poor choices.

### ASSESSMENT

Class instruction will include review of previous material, lecture and demonstration on new material, opportunities for students to engage in guided practice, performance tests and written work.

**PARTICIPATION:** Students begin each class with 10 points for participation each day in class. This grade is based on preparation of music, staying on task while working individually, and contribution to the class environment. In addition, failure to bring the appropriate supplies will result in a deduction of 5 points for no guitar, and 5 points for no book.

**PLAYING TESTS:** Students will be assessed on a regular basis through playing tests. This will include a mixture of individual and ensemble material. Test values are graded on accuracy of pitch, rhythm, technique and musicality. Students who have not brought their materials to class are not allowed to take that playing test. They must schedule a make-up time during “Griz” and a score of “0” will be entered until they make the test up.

<b>Participation:</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Playing tests:</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Written work:</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final:</b>	<b>10%</b>

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