

# Course Syllabus

## Correia Middle School

### Beginning and Intermediate Guitar

**Room:** 603

**Instructor:** Mrs. Ina Soliz

**Contact:** 619-222-0476 ext. 4603 or email: isoliz@sandi.net

**Website:** correiamusic.com

#### Course Description

Guitar affords students the opportunity to learn cooperation, responsibility and self-discipline through musical expression in a group activity. Beginning Guitar is Correia's beginning level guitar ensemble designed for students new to the music experience. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!** Intermediate guitar students will continue their growth in musical knowledge and performance skills. This course will include the study of plectrum (pick) and classical guitar techniques such as: scales, strumming, arpeggios, rest/free stroke, and chord progressions in the popular and classical fields. In addition, this course will cover guitar note reading, tablature, and some history of the guitar. Classical and folk music are emphasized in the course of study, as is popular music. Evening concerts are an integral part of the course and participation is expected.

#### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will have a basic knowledge of note reading, scales, chord progressions, strumming vs. arpeggios, and rest/free stroke techniques. In addition, students will be exposed to different types of guitar music by listening to and watching recorded materials and/or attending live guitar performances. Students will learn a fundamental knowledge of music history and rudimentary skills in ensemble playing. Also included are opportunities for public performance, school service, and the encouragement for students to attend community cultural events.

#### Grading

##### **20% Performance Participation**

- Guitar is a *performance-based class*. **All** performances during or after school are mandatory.. Students and parents will be informed of these dates well in advance. The performance calendar is updated regularly and is available on the class website and posted in the classroom. Unexcused absences of any performance, for any reason, will result in a '0' grade for the performance (or lowering of at least one letter grade for the semester). **Students are expected to have parental approval (email or written note) prior to a performance date for performance participation exemption. An alternative, written assignment will be given to these students.**

##### **80% Class Participation (20pts. Daily) See below for rubric Tests, Assignments, and Projects.**

- Students may be required to complete written tests, and assignments throughout any given 6-week grading term. Students are responsible for bringing the necessary supplies needed for the specific tests including pencils, instruments, and music. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the test.

##### **Performance Tests**

- Students will be required to perform several playing tests over the course of the semester. Students will be required to perform these tests in class. Make-up tests will be scheduled

by the teacher. These tests are used to assess the quality at which the student is performing on his/her guitar.

### **Tutoring**

After school tutoring is available for all students. Students must ask Mrs. Soliz one day in advance to stay after school the next day.

### **Class Participation**

Students can earn up to 20 points in Daily Participation using the following rubric:

#### **Preparation (5pts)**

- Has footstool, stand, music, and guitar when the bell rings
- Pencil

#### **Learning Involvement (5pts)**

- Actively plays as instructed
- Studies individual part silently while teacher works with another section
- Keeps music binder up to date

#### **Correct Guitar Posture (5pts)**

- When reading standard notation: left foot on footstool, sitting at the front of the chair, back straight, guitar has 3 points of contact

#### **Guitar Behavior (5pts)**

- Is on time (in seat when the bell rings)
- Moves promptly and quietly to assigned seat
- Remains on task
- Is not distracting
- Displays positive learning attitude
- No gum, candy, or food (water is encouraged!)
- Remains in seat during rehearsal
- Enters and exits the classroom properly

### **Extra Credit**

- Extra credit may be earned through special projects or performances assigned by the teacher, or through extra-curricular music activities such as outside music ensembles, going to see a musical performance, etc. Students participating in these activities should make arrangements with the teacher to obtain extra credit points, unless it has otherwise been specified as an 'extra credit opportunity.'

### **Materials**

- **Instruments** - For your convenience, we recommend that instruments are rented or purchased through local area merchants. Students will be provided with an instrument to use during class. An instrument may be borrowed for those students who do not have an instrument to practice at home. Students and parents must fill out an Instrument Loan contract. If you wish to purchase an instrument outright **please** consult the teacher first for advice.
- **Instrument storage** – Guitars are provided to students during class. It is not recommended that students bring personal guitars from home, as there is currently no secure storage. Students bringing guitars from home do so at their own risk. **Correia**

**and/or CIMA are not responsible for the theft or damage of improperly stored instruments.**

- **Music-** Students are strongly recommended to bring a black, one-inch three-ring binder. This will be used as the student's notebook and performance binder. Students are not to write on, deface, or place objects on the outside cover of this book. As an alternative, students may also use a section of their binder for guitar. Regular notebook checks will be conducted throughout the year. One copy of music will be provided to students.

### Classroom Expectations

The expectations for this class are simple. Every student is expected to abide by our PRIDE guidelines and the Correia Code of Conduct. Other school rules, such as no gum, no hats, and no food or drinks in the classroom also apply in this class. Because you will be responsible for the care and handling of expensive equipment and materials it is important to follow all of these expectations and they will be enforced without negotiation. Safety with and care of all music equipment, including the equipment in the music lab, is a zero tolerance item as is respect for your peers and their contribution to Correia Music.

### Consequences

- 1) Violation of any of the above rules results in a verbal warning.
- 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> violation of the above rules within the same class period will result in a time-out and a PRP processing form. *Three or more time-outs within a six-week grading period will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship grade.\**
- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> violation of the above rules within the same class period will result in the above, plus a phone call home, and a lunch detention.
- 4) 4<sup>th</sup> violation of the above rules within the same class period will result in the above plus removal from class, *a school-wide after school detention* and a lowering of the citizenship grade.\*
- 5) 5<sup>th</sup> violation of the above rules will result in a referral and an unsatisfactory citizenship grade.\*

SEVERE DISRUPTION – Immediate referral to the office, and an unsatisfactory citizenship grade.

**\*REMINDER\* Students earning a citizenship grade of N (needs improvement) or U (unsatisfactory) in any class are not eligible for class field trips. (see below)**

### Field Trips

During the course of the year, the teacher will include various forms of education that will give students a well-rounded musical experience. These may include, entering a solo and/or ensemble contest, guest performer demonstrations, and on or off-campus performances. These experiences require students to miss classes and/or leave campus for an extended amount of time. Because of this, it will be necessary for students to maintain sound academic and citizenship grades in **all** of their classes.

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Students must maintain a 2.5 or above GPA in academics and 3.0 in citizenship in all courses to remain eligible for music field trips. Students with poor attendance or that have been suspended from Correia Middle School for any reason WILL NOT be eligible for music field trips or activities that require them to be removed from their academic classes.**

## **Performances**

The Correia Middle School Guitar Ensemble will be performing in the Guitar Winter Concert on **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**, and the Guitar Spring Concert on **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. Both concerts will be at Point Loma High School, (2335 Chatsworth Blvd, 92106) in the Larry Zeiger Performing Arts Center. Participation in these performances is mandatory and equivalent to a final exam. If a student is unable to attend, please notify Mrs. Soliz at least one week before the performance, and an alternative assignment will be given. Failure to notify Mrs. Soliz of your absence from the concert may result in a failing grade.

## **Uniforms**

At Correia, we take pride in our musical ensembles. Our director and students work very hard to bring high quality performances that wow audiences and impress judges at festivals and competitions. Flaws in uniforms and appearance detract from the overall performance, the music we perform, and the quality of our hard work.

- Students must be in full uniform for all performances. Uniforms should look neat and be complete from head to toe. New and used uniforms are available for purchase or CIMA can provide clean and used uniforms free of charge if necessary. The uniform for Guitar is a blue CIMA t-shirt and clean jeans, no holes.

