

**Course Syllabus: Davidson Fine Arts  
GUITAR Class (5B)  
2019-2020 Academic Year**



**Instructor:** Dr. Laura Tomlin  
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**Materials:** Please see attached form for details. **Due: Monday, August 12**

- Instrument and case
- Book: First Year Guitar by Nancy Lee Marsters
- Performance clothes
- Orchestra binders and required contents.

**Course Description:** Topics covered include: ensemble skills (both large and small), music fundamentals/ theory, music history, music of other cultures, stringed instrument techniques, and individual mastery of their instruments. **This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.**

Students will be encouraged to participate in activities outside of school which are appropriate to their level, such as special workshops/masterclasses held on campus or in the area, as well as summer camps. Students are also encouraged to take private lessons, if possible. Students will also be encouraged to attend live performances involving guitars, both at Davidson Fine Arts and off-campus, preferably by professional musicians (many opportunities exist in the area with free to minimal admission costs). Video options will be available for those students unable to attend concerts, but attendance at a live performance is encouraged.

**Class Policies:** Guitar students are expected to adhere to the following rules both in class and out, including at all after-school rehearsals/performances and at away events:

- 1) Students should arrive to class on time (physically in the room at the bell) and immediately begin to prepare for class. At five minutes after the bell, points will be deducted from their weekly personal responsibility grade.
- 2) Students should bring all necessary materials to every class, including their instrument, music binder and pencils. **A sharpened pencil should be on the stand at every class/rehearsal.**
- 3) Students should be respectful of their own property, as well as the property of others. Repairs cost money which could be better spent elsewhere.
- 4) Students should strive to make the best use of their time. Rehearsals will be held in a professional manner. All extraneous talking/playing should cease when the director steps on the podium and when the director stops the ensemble to give corrections/directions.
- 5) No food or drink allowed in the orchestra room except with permission and only at the table!
- 6) **Students are responsible for the events listed on the DFA Orchestra calendar. Links for it can be found on my teacher page accessed from the DFA main website under Fine Arts Department and at dfaorchestras.com. A chronological list of important dates will also be handed out the first week. PLEASE CHECK THE ONLINE**

**CALENDAR REGULARLY AS IT WILL HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. The calendar can also be printed.**

<b>Grading:</b>	Performances (includes rehearsals)	40 %
	Tests/Projects	30 %
	<u>Classwork/Homework</u>	<u>30 %</u>
		100 %

**Evaluation of Grading Components:**

**1) Performances - 40 %**

- **Students are expected to be present and participating in all required rehearsals leading up to a performance, as well as all performances.**
- Students should be on time and prepared for rehearsals and performances.

**2) Tests/Projects - 30 %**

- Testing methods will include written tests, as well as playing tests.
- Solo and small ensemble playing will also be encouraged. Group and chair placement may not always be based on level, but with peer mentoring and other considerations in mind.

**3) Classwork/Homework - 30 %**

- Each week students will be given a personal responsibility grade based on their preparedness for class – instrument, music, pencil, evidence of practice outside of class.
- Students are expected to complete work by its assigned date, neatly and conscientiously.
- Students should turn in original work. Cheating will result in an automatic “0” and disciplinary action
- Late penalties will be according to the school-wide guidelines, 11% loss per day, and a “O” after three days
- Make-up work will also follow the guidelines in the student handbook.

**Fieldtrips:**

- We will have various field trip opportunities in the area during the year to attend concerts, special events, etc. More information and dates coming soon.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return by FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019.**

*I have read all of my orientation materials, and I understand the requirements for and agree to abide by the stated rules of my guitar class this year.*

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read all of my orchestra student's orientation materials, and I understand the requirements and the rules that my child is responsible for in his/her guitar class. I agree to do whatever is necessary to aid my child in fulfilling his/her requirements this year.*

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**I have received or will receive on \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Training through the Richmond County Board of Education and have a valid volunteer ID card. I would be willing to volunteer for the following orchestra/guitar activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Field Trip Chaperone during the school day**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Field Trip Chaperone out of town**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Monitor at evening or weekend rehearsals**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Monitor backstage & in audience during performances**

**Volunteer Name: (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers: (H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(W)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(C)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Materials Needed

- 1) REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: First Year Guitar by Nancy Lee Marsters. Available at [classguitar.com](http://classguitar.com)
- 2) Instrument and case
  - DFA does not own any guitars at the moment, so the student must provide their own.
  - Guitars are readily available for purchase and possibly rental at most of the local music stores, and might have a rent-to-own option. Also, check online marketplaces like on Craigslist and Facebook
- 3) An extra set of strings is recommended. DFA does not have any guitar strings in stock.
- 6) Performance clothes: (Yes, guitar class will be performing!) Black shirts/blouses, pants/skirt, black shoes or boots, black socks/hose – all within dress code.
- 6) Required guitar binders:
  - Binder specifics: **1-inch BLACK** three-ring binders
  - Contents: pencil pouch, four sharpened pencils, 10-12 page protectors for music
  - DEADLINE and binder check: **MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019**
- 7) The beginning of the school year comes with many expenses. Please contact Dr. Tomlin if you have concerns about payment of any of the orchestra fees, the purchase of supplies or the availability of internet service at home.