

# Peasley Middle School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Guitar Class

### 2018-2019 School Year

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Best method is via email: [potto@gc.k12.va.us](mailto:potto@gc.k12.va.us) . Of course, you can call the school office 804-693-1499 to leave a message. You can also find lots more about this class on our website: <http://www.guitarpotto.com/peasleychorus> .

Please fill out the Instrument **Rental Contract** and return it with the \$10.00 fee by...

Sept 21 (first semester) Feb 15 (second semester)

#### I. Course Description:

Students in this class will learn basic skills for playing guitar. This is a beginning level class that teaches music playing and music reading skills. No prior experience required.

#### II. Essential Understandings:

Students will play alone and with others. Along with playing, students will learn to read basic music notation for guitarists. Three areas of playing will include melody, chords and bass. Finger picking and strumming skills will be explored. For students with prior guitar experience, there will be opportunities for advanced learning.

#### III. Required Materials and Supplies:

Each member of the class will be provided with a school guitar assigned to them for the semester. Students will be expected to practice outside of school using the text and a school guitar. (A class fee of \$10 provides for guitar usage.)

#### IV. Classroom Expectations: (beyond the Student Code of Conduct)

Follow Directions  
Be on time for each rehearsal/lesson  
Be respectful (friendly) to each person in the room  
Keep hands and feet to yourself  
No hats, food or drinks (except water)  
No personal electronic devices during class

#### V. Grading and Student Evaluation:

##### A. Grading Categories

1. **Class Participation** is a large part of the grade for this class. (See descriptions below)
2. **Playing Tests** are individual assessments to help measure your progress.
3. **Classwork/Quizzes** are assigned to help you understand music notation and other concepts taught in class.
4. **Practice Record** You are required to submit one each week showing how many minutes you practiced outside of the classroom.
5. A **Guitarist Report** will be assigned during the first quarter of the semester

## B. Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
E	59 and below

Grading Categories	
• Participation*	40%
• Playing Tests	25%
• Classwork/Quizzes	20%
• Practice Record	10%
• Project	5%

## VI. Homework:

Practicing and other work done outside of class provides each student with the opportunity to improve skills, develop a deeper understanding of course content, or prepare for upcoming classroom activities, course assignments and assessments. Students who complete assignments throughout the course will be better prepared for assessments and cumulative projects.

## VI. Extra Help & Assistance:

Students are encouraged to seek help outside of classroom time. Mr. Otto will be available after school upon appointment. Make appointments during class, or use the contact information above. In addition, some classroom lessons as well as practice tracks are available on the [Chorus Web Page](http://www.guitarpotto.com/peasleychorus). (<http://www.guitarpotto.com/peasleychorus>)

**\*Weekly participation grades** will be based on...

1. Arrival: On time in assigned seat. Put all personal items in appropriate place. No gum/food (bottled water ok). Join in the focusing activity promptly.
2. Materials: Music Folder, Pencil, Handouts, Instruments, etc.
3. Paying Attention: Listening, Studying, Practicing, Reading, Discussion, Etc.
4. Responsiveness: Respond to the teacher's musical directions, gestures and leadership.
5. Collaboration: Be respectful of the work we are all doing together to accomplish great music!

## ***Important...***

All classroom activities are designed for one reason – to help you become the best guitar player that you can be. This can only be achieved through paying attention and practicing. Your progress will be checked every week in class. Also, there will be short quizzes on music symbols and terms. You will be involved in playing together in small groups, and with the whole class. One written report on a guitarist will be done in the first quarter. The second quarter will culminate in class performances demonstrating music learned during the semester.

Success in this class depends on **you** making progress. If at any time you feel overwhelmed or uncertain, please make a point to talk with me. I am willing to spend time with you to help.