

SJCCA Guitar Department

Trey Brewer, Director



Guitar Ensemble

This is the most advanced group which performs at concerts and festivals during the school year. Students must demonstrate a high degree of ability and commitment to be considered for membership to this group. When after school rehearsals are scheduled they are required and will not be excused because of work, athletics, forgetfulness, etc. This group of students functions as the nucleus of the Guitar Program. One credit is earned for the successful completion of class work, rehearsal requirements and performances with the Ensemble each year.

Guitar II, Guitar III and Guitar IV

These are upper level groups for students with playing skills beyond the intermediate level but have yet to achieve the playing level required by the Guitar Ensemble. Members of this group are a very important part of the Guitar Program and will perform concerts during the year. One credit is earned for the successful completion of the class work, rehearsal requirements and performances with the class each year.

Guitar I

This is an introductory group made up of primarily of beginning students and students that have limited playing skills beyond that of a beginner's but need more experience on their instruments. Members of this group are part of the Guitar Program and will also perform at several concerts throughout the year. One credit is earned for the successful completion of the class work, rehearsal requirements and performances with the class each year.

Electric Guitar Ensemble (Wire Choir)

Electric Guitar Ensemble is much like a jazz big band only with guitars instead of traditional band instruments. The group will feature five guitars as well as bass and drums playing many styles of music including Pop, Jazz and Blues with an emphasis on improvisation. This is an audition only group that will meet before school a minimum of two days per week. Students must demonstrate a high degree of ability and commitment to be considered for membership to this group. All students must be able to read music through 5th position and be able to play numerous chord voicings as well as being familiar with blues and jazz improvisation. These skills will be covered in Guitar II but students may also be accepted in the group via audition. Each student must have his / her own electric guitar and an instrument cable.

Guitar Class Handbook

Guitarist Code of Conduct

1. Guitarists shall show respect to the Director and to other Guitarists both in and out of the guitar classroom.
2. Guitarists shall show respect to their instrument. Remember, guitars are made of wood and are easily scratched, dented or fractured.
3. Guitarists shall arrive to class early enough to be seated with their instrument, foot stool, music folder and pencil ready so the class may begin on time.
4. If you break a rule of the student code of conduct set up by the St. Johns County School Board, consistently have a negative attitude towards the program or show disrespect to the director, adult volunteers, peers or yourself, have excessive tardiness or absences from school, rehearsals or performances, excused or unexcused, you are jeopardizing your membership and performance privileges.
5. All guitar students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to participate in any performances on or off campus.
6. Enjoy your talent to the fullest! Respect those people that are in the program with you and always encourage others to play and work to their potential. Come to class with a positive working attitude. Be ready to work!

Uniforms

SJCCA Classical Guitar Ensemble

1. Male Guitarists shall wear a black tuxedo, white winged tip tux shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black socks and black formal shoes.
2. Female Guitarists shall wear a black floor length formal dress (provided) (no strapless, spaghetti straps, low cut neckline or backline), black hosiery and black formal shoes.

No jewelry can be worn during performances. Earrings must be small tasteful studs, no dangling or hoop earrings. No facial jewelry can be worn.

Hair needs to be worn neatly and out of the face at all times. Please wear a black hair tie if needed. Hair color needs to be natural – no hair dyes of blue, orange, pink, etc.

Uniforms Cont.

All other Classes

The required performance attire for all guitarists will be black pants, black socks and black shoes and the class Guitar shirt. Jewelry and hair policies are the same as for the Guitar Ensemble.

Failure to be in proper uniform shall result in points being deducted from your grade and will cause you to be removed from the performance.

Performances

Concerts are special events that require all guitarists to be well prepared with their part in order to perform to their fullest with the group. There will be several performances throughout the year. Some of the performances will be during school but also several performances will be after school. **ALL performances AND rehearsals for those performances are mandatory.** Every performance and rehearsal will receive a grade. If you miss a rehearsal or performance you will receive a grade of a zero. If you miss a rehearsal you will not be allowed to perform in the concert. Work or athletic events are not valid reasons for missing concerts or rehearsals.

In the event of an emergency please contact me immediately via email trey.brewer@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Grading

Your grade will be based on class participation, concerts (during and after school), playing tests, written tests and performance proficiencies. Each student will be graded daily on using proper guitar technique including posture, holding the guitar correctly, proper right and left hand technique and your contribution to the class.

Everyone is required to participate in the winter and spring concerts and rehearsals for those concerts. No exceptions! If you are not in class the day of the performance you will not be able to perform for the concert and will lose credit without a valid excuse.

Guitar Ensemble is also expected to participate in the Florida Music Education Association Guitar Festival.

Guitar Check outs

All students are allowed to check out school guitars for practice after school on a first come first serve basis. All checked out guitars must be returned before school on the following day. If you are going to be out of school for any reason,

please make arrangements for the guitar to be returned.

Fair Share and Instrument rental

We are a self-funded organization!

Fair share is money that is contributed annually to the Guitar Department by each participating student Guitarist. Fair share money is used to purchase Guitar performance t-shirts for each student. Fair share is also used to purchase other items such as class guitars, instruction books, strings, amplifiers, manuscript paper, clinicians and other items not covered by the school budget. Each student will be assigned a guitar for use in the class. Students can also check out guitars daily for home practice. This Fair Share and Instrument rental can be paid fully or in payments until the balance is paid. Fair share for the entire year is less money than the average one hour guitar lesson. The entire fair share helps provide each student with the materials to be successful in their musical development.

<u>Guitar Department Fees</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Fair Share Guitar I, II, III, IV, Electric	\$40.00	August 12
Fair Share Classical Ensemble	\$40.00	August 12

*** Fair share can be paid in installments. Please talk to Mr. Brewer in private if you are having any financial hardships and we will work out a plan.**

Uniform Purchase. Each SJCCA Classical Guitar Ensemble member is responsible for purchasing your own uniform. Mr. Brewer will order a uniform for you if you don't have one.

Men	\$100.00	August 31
Women	\$ 75.00	August 31

Class Policies

- 1) Never bring food or drink into the guitar room. This is a school policy. Chewing gum and candy are considered food.
- 2) Be on time! When one comes late to class, it is a distraction for everyone in the room. Please make every effort to take care of school business before or after class. This includes restroom breaks!
- 3) Do not leave the classroom unless you have been instructed to do so by Mr. Brewer.
- 4) Do not go into the storage room unless you have permission by Mr. Brewer.
- 5) Be sure to put your guitar in the correct space and your footstool in the basket beside the Guitar storage area.

- 6) Pick up all trash that accumulates around you during the class and throw it in the trash receptacle at the end of the period.
- 7) Students are not allowed in Mr. Brewer's office with the exception student aides. The phone is for business purposes only.
- 8) Any student placed in Out of School Suspension will not be allowed to travel or perform with the performing group. Any student placed in In School Suspension could lose their travel/performance privileges. In addition, if a student is arrested outside of school his or hers travel privileges may be revoked. The Director will make the determination with school administrators.

