

New Course Proposal Format

Course Title: Guitar, Ukulele, and Bass through Songs & Songwriting! -Level One & Level Two

Department: Performing Arts

Credits: 0.5, one semester course

Periods per week: four

Grade(s): 9-12

Requirements:

No requirements for level one.

For level two, a basic understanding of how to play chords and simple melodic lines on guitar and/or ukulele, and/or simple bass lines on bass.

Prerequisites:

None for level one.

For level two either completion of level one of the course or at least one year of 6-8 guitar/ukulele class or equivalent experience.

Course Description for Course Guide:

Would you like to learn to play or advance your skills on guitar, ukulele, and/or bass through playing your favorite songs? Would you like to bring your own creative ideas to life and learn to write original songs while developing skills on an instrument? If you answered yes to either of these questions, this is the class for you. In level one of this class, students with little or no experience on guitar, ukulele or bass learn the basics of playing chords, melodies and bass lines, learn to read chord charts and standard notation, basic chord voicing, strumming patterns and fingerstyle techniques, and will the basics of soloing over different song forms. Students get to choose the songs they want to learn and learn to write their own original songs.

Proposed Course Syllabus

I. Learning Objectives (A statement of learning objectives is a statement of changes to take place in students):

- Through learning to play and compose songs, students will learn how to play the guitar, ukulele and/or bass.

- Students will develop and/or enhance a love of playing and composing music.
- Students will learn the basics of reading music.
- Students will learn how to work in ensemble, how to refine and improve on their work through practice, how to analyze songs and reflect on and critique their own work and the work of others.
- Students will compose original songs.
- In level two of the course, students will advance their playing and learn more complex song forms, chord progressions and melodic lines. Students will create more sophisticated original works.

By the completion of this course, the successful students will have learned:

Level One:

1. How to play a major, minor, seventh and diminished chords.
2. How to play a number of standard chord progressions, such as the blues form.
3. How to read chord charts and standard notation.
4. How to understand and analyze song forms.
5. How to compose an original song.
6. How to improvise over chord progressions.

Level Two:

1. Students will build on all of the above skills and delve deeper into more complex chords and chord progressions, chord voicings and how to play more challenging melodic lines.
2. Students will write more complex original pieces.
3. Students will learn more sophisticated approaches to improvising.

II. Learning Experiences (A learning experience is the interaction between the learner and the external conditions in the environment to which he/she can react):

In this course, students will:

1. Collaborate with others to create music.
2. Develop and refine their work through practice and repetition.
3. Develop muscle memory and internalize playing an instrument and music.
4. Express their creativity, identity, and ideas about the world through songwriting and improvising.

III. Course Outline - (A brief outline of the major topics and units which are central to this course; The sequence and selection of topics may be altered by the teacher based on the needs of the students.)

1. How to play guitar, ukulele and/or bass.
2. How to play different chords.
3. How chord progressions and song forms work.
4. How to write a song.
5. How to improvise.

IV. Course materials: The following list represents the major texts and/or resources used in French 3AP. Teachers also use many additional texts, articles, materials and curriculum documents which they have gathered or prepared themselves and which they believe enrich and extend student learning.

1. Students will need instruments, which we will provide.
2. We will provide a number of songs, and may purchase music that students request.

Please answer the following questions in your proposal

- 1) How does this course promote the district's goal of Educational Equity?
 - This course is open to students with no prior experience.
 - Through music, students learn to work with and support one another.
 - Students get to choose much of the music they wish to work on.
 - Students will express their identity and creativity through composing their own original songs.
- 2) Why do we need to add this course?
 - It will appeal to many students.
 - It's the only music class that we offer in middle school that we do not continue at BHS.
 - It has a beginner level and a more advanced level.
- 3) What might be the impact of this course?
 - It will appeal to many students who may not find other electives they are interested in.
 - It will bring students into music who otherwise would not be interested in it through our other music offerings.
 - It can lead to other classes we offer, such as Jazz/Rock Ensemble, Music Collective and our Choruses.
 - It can lead to students participating in more extracurricular activities, such as being in the pit band for the musical.