



Ironwood Ridge High School Guitar

2020-2021 Syllabus &
Member Handbook

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COVID-19 Addendum:

1.) Engaging in Online Classes:

To help prepare students for the start of the school year, we are providing the following information to help familiarize students with the routines that teachers will be following:

Students should expect to engage their teachers in the Zoom environment with their webcam activated. If your student is not able to use a webcam, please email the teacher and let them know the circumstances.

- To be admitted into Zoom classrooms, students must have a neutral background, an appropriate environment, be appropriately dressed and ready to learn. Students who are in pajamas, laying in their bed or use an inappropriate background will be exited from the classroom and marked absent.
- Teachers will communicate information and/or email students using students' Amphi Gmail accounts. Student's Amphi Gmail accounts use the following format: Student_ID_Number@student.amphi.com (Ex. 30012345@student.amphi.com)
- When using Zoom, students will need to use their first initial, last name to identify themselves to the teacher.
- Students need to follow proper etiquette in both the Zoom and Google Classroom environments, refraining from inappropriate language or off topic discussions.

2.) Attendance:

- Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of the class period; thus, it is important to enter class on time.
- Students joining class after 7 minutes will be marked Tardy.
- Students who exit the class session without being excused by a caregiver will be marked absent
- Caregivers are required to report student absence in order to be excused
- Only students with Excused absences will be allowed to make up work without grade penalty.

3.) Grades:

In light of the profound implications of COVID-19 on students' academic learning and social-emotional well-being, Amphitheater School District's Secondary Schools have adopted the following principles and protocols for grading and assessment for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

- Students are expected to complete and submit assignments by the stated/written due date. Students can submit work up to a week late with no penalty. Individual student challenges should be considered before assigning a grade
- The minimum grade that can be assigned to a student on any given assignment is a 50%. Students who are on track to State and course standards mastery, show effort, and meet deadlines can expect a grade higher than 50%.

“Why Music?”

The value of music in our society is so important because music it is truly everywhere in our daily lives on television, the radio and now even on our smartphones. By studying music, people will really understand not only the fact that music is everywhere, but really grasp *how* it is made and *why* it is so important to us.

Music education not only teaches individuals how to play an instrument and perform, it also adds crucial life skills as well. Some of these include having high confidence in front of others, time-management skills, perseverance and dedication. All of those listed qualities I personally gained through music, and they have helped me later in life including securing a job, getting into a university, and keeping an organized daily schedule. As a music educator, I not only want to make great musicians, but more importantly ***great people***. Students who become involved in music during the formative years of their education tend to support fine arts programs later in life. This support and love of music can help future American fine arts programs save music, dance, drama, and visual arts programs from disappearing from K-12 curriculums.

Letter from The Director:

Dear IRHS String Students and Parents:

I would like to personally introduce you to the exciting world of the Ironwood Ridge High School music department!

At Ironwood Ridge High School, our music programs have established a long tradition of musical and personal excellence, earning a reputation as an innovative organization that pushes musical boundaries each year, while providing its membership with quality musical and educational experiences.

This IRHS Guitar Handbook informs and reminds students, parents, family members, and friends of the commitment and responsibility that helps keep our traditions and standards in place each school year. The IRHS music programs are a collective “melting pot” of student backgrounds, with members coming from all different walks of life, making for an exciting and diverse learning environment. A central ingredient to the success of any group effort is the cultivation and maintenance of this collective group. Through our striving for excellence in learning many styles of music, we will develop not only as musicians, but also as people.

Current string members and their parents should read and or review the following handbook, as every year it is updated, to fit the current needs for the IRHS music department. This a handbook will provide information regarding policies, rules, co-curricular activities, grading policies, calendar and other information necessary to give students and their families a clear summary of expectations and opportunities for each IRHS string student.

Being a member of the Ironwood Ridge High School Music Program comes with a great deal of commitment, hard work and a need for positive attitudes from every individual. These ideals are each an essential part for the string program’s growth and success.

Once again, welcome you to the Ironwood Ridge High School String Program family! I cannot wait to begin our musical journey with each and every one you!

With regards,

Mr. Damon R. Knepper M.M.Ed.

Director of Strings & Percussion

Assistant Director of Bands

Ironwood Ridge High School

dknepper@amphi.com

Phone: (520) 407-4144

For detailed information on our program, please visit the official Ironwood Ridge Strings website: <https://sites.google.com/view/ironwoodridgestrings/>

2020-2021 IRHS String Offerings:

String Orchestra:

String Orchestra offers a variety of learning experiences for musicians of varying levels. This ensemble studies a variety of musical styles while incorporating music theory, music history, and daily pedagogy/technique. Throughout the year, students will learn intermediate and advanced techniques on their instrument, while still stressing correct basic fundamentals on a daily basis. This ensemble will perform at all major band/orchestra concerts throughout the school year. In the spring, this group will participate in competitions and festivals throughout Arizona. Students are highly encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities such as Regional Orchestra, All-State Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble and local groups like the Tucson Philharmonic Orchestra.

Private lessons are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for each to student to aid growth and understanding of their instrument. As a private teacher myself, I can attest that students' musical progress is about 2-3 times faster with the addition of lessons.

Guitar:

Guitar Class is an open ensemble offered by the IRHS Music Department for students all levels. The class will have a focus on playing various styles of music in difference sized ensembles such as rock, jazz, pop, Latin and classical. There will also be an emphasis on music theory, history of the instrument, basic rhythm reading and ensemble playing. Music will be taught through variety of means using classical notation, modern guitar tablature and demonstration-based rote teaching. Guitar class will perform at various concerts and events throughout the year. Students are highly encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities such as garage bands, small guitar groups and attend guitar masterclasses/concerts at University of Arizona and Pima Community College.

Private lessons are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for each to student to aid growth and understanding of their instrument. As a private teacher myself, I can attest that students' musical progress is about 2-3 times faster with the addition of lessons.

For more information on our ensembles check the Ironwood Ridge Strings website:

- <https://sites.google.com/view/ironwoodridgestrings/>

Code of Conduct:

Rehearsal Conduct:

Be respectful to your peers & clean up after yourself.

Treat others with respectful & caring behavior.

Remember to listen, pay attention, & use manners in class.

Put pride into your work.

Phones are to be out of sight at all times, ***unless*** being used as a tuner.

Performance and Off-Campus Conduct:

In performance or off-campus activity situations, orchestra students are expected to exhibit professional behavior that favorably represents IRHS and the music program. Students will comply with IRHS dress code and with the uniform requirements set by the director. Students will behave with modesty and decorum while in concert attire.

IRHS String Program Policies on Discipline:

The IRHS String Program strongly believes that all students have right to learn within a safe and productive learning environment. IRHS faculty will not tolerate actions or behaviors that detract from this right.

First Infraction – Verbal warning

Second Infraction – Verbal warning, loss of participation points and phone call/email to parents

Third Infraction – Written referral and removal from classroom

Fourth Infraction - Written referral, removal from classroom and meeting with student, parents and administration

IRHS has **zero tolerance policy** for bullying or threatening behavior towards students, teachers and guests. Any form or display or form of this behavior will result in immediate removal from the classroom and an administrator will be immediately contacted.

Communication:

All of my communication will be done in several ways, to ensure that all students and families know “what’s going on” at all times with our guitar program.

The two main ways I will communicate this year will be through email and *Google Classroom*

Attendance Policy:

As a performance-based class, rehearsal is an essential element of progress towards the student's performance learning goal, missed rehearsals may result in a lowered grade in that area. Every public performance or concert is a demonstration of each student's learning in the areas of reading, performing, listening, and evaluation. Performances are the equivalent of major formative assessments/exams and are weighted as such. Accordingly, **failure to attend a required concert will have a significant impact on a student's grades**. If a student continually misses public performances, he/she may be asked not to return to the program, as these absences negatively affect the entire ensemble.

Late Policy:

To be marked on time, you must be in your seat, with your stand, notebook and instrument out, completing your bellwork assignment 5 minutes after the tardy bell rings. This allows students to get their gear from the storage room and grab a chair and stand without having to rush. Any student, not in their seat 5 minutes after class starts, will be marked tardy.

Attendance must be recorded during the first 7 minutes of class, as per district rules. Any student that enters after this will be marked absent and I will have to change it to a tardy later in the day.

Supplies:

Students are required to have the following at every rehearsal:

- One black three ring binder for handouts
- A tuner (the clip-on type is preferred)
- A pencil, NO PENS!
- Their instrument
- All sheet music for exercises and repertoire

Students are graded daily on having these items. For each missing item, 1 point will be deducted from their daily participation points.

All sheet music is the property of IRHS and should be handled with care. Students will be assessed a fine for replacing lost or damaged music.

Practicing:

The district mandates that homework is a requirement for every class. As musicians, students are expected to practice regularly to hone their skills and musical development. Every student is required to practice at least 30 minutes a day. If a child is not practicing regularly, I will be in contact with parents to help find a solution.

Grading Policy:

All students enrolled in any of the music classes offered by IRHS will receive a grade for each quarter and semester. A student's grade is averaged against the total number of points possible per quarter/semester. As a performance-based ensemble, most of a student's grade depends on their personal preparation and attendance at performances.

Grading category weights and their corresponding activities are as follows:

- *40% - Concert Attendance*
- *30% - Music Checks (Both submitted digitally and in-person)*
- *10% - Daily Participation*
- *10% - Music Theory Assessments*
- *10% - Final Reflection*

Required Concert/Festival Attire:

Option #1:

- Bright colored long-sleeved & collared button-down shirt (No t-shirts)
- Dress pants
- Belt
- Dress Socks
- Dress Shoes
- No excessive jewelry

Option #2:

- Bright Colored Dress
- Dress Shoes (No flip-flops, please)
- No excessive jewelry

****All attire must adhere to the IRHS dress code policy***

Fundraising:

***** Fundraising is essential for music programs to be successful! *****

Sheet music, repairs, festival registration fees, needed classroom supplies are paid for by fundraising. Without that money, we cannot function as a successful music ensemble.

All fundraising is voluntary, so therefore, not required. However, we hope that every student will participate in at least some of the many fundraising opportunities that will be offered throughout the year. Some of the fundraisers will be to help fund the entire guitar program, while others will benefit the individual student. Regardless, all students who participate in any of the fundraising programs will be held accountable for all items being sold, as well as all monies being turned in.

We are always looking for new, creative ways to fundraise! Please do not hesitate to reach out via email with any new ideas you would like to see for fundraising.

More information will be given closer to fundraising dates.

2020-2021 IRHS Guitar Dates:

Events in bold are required for ALL members of the class

Fall 2020:

TBD – 4th Annual Arts-a-palooza Festival @ IRHS – 6 p.m.

TBD in December – Winter Strings Concert @ IRHS - 7 p.m.

Spring 2021:

TBD in May - End of the Year Strings Concert @ IRHS 7 p.m.

More performance “gigs” may open up as the school year progresses and will be considered based on their educational value and necessary preparation time for students.

Any calendar alterations will be emailed to all parents and students.