

## 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade General Music: Beginning Ukulele Class Syllabus and Expectations

Herget MS - Dr. Glogowski – [jglogowski@sd129.org](mailto:jglogowski@sd129.org)  
<http://herget.discoverthought.com> 630-301-5794

In this **nine-week class** you have the opportunity to learn how to play the Ukulele, including simple picking (melody), basic chords (harmony), strumming patterns, and singing.

### **By the end of this class, you will:**

- Be able to read basic notes and rhythms in standard music notation.
- Know how to play and how to learn basic chord changes.
- Strum basic patterns, and begin more complicated patterns.
- Play a common chord progression and sing at the same time.

### **You will learn the following skills that you should apply to any subject or skill:**

- 1) The process of how to learn a skill
- 2) Effective practice habits
- 3) How to break down complex skills into manageable components
- 4) How to engage in the creative process with other people

Even if you think that “music isn’t your thing,” I think that, if you stick with this class the next nine weeks, you’re going to learn a lot.

### **Course Requirements**

**Supplies** - You are required to have these by the first Friday of the quarter.

- 1 Inch 3-ring binder (color is unimportant, and must be in class every day).
- Pencil (please no pen).
- Your Chromebook – We will use these.

### **Class Policies**

**1. Respect self, others, and property. Treat others, as you want to be treated.**

**2. Follow directions and be prepared to work.**

- Students should be in their seats, with course materials, ready when the bell rings.
- Students are responsible for the care of their instrument they are assigned.
  - Student should only touch their own instrument.
  - If an instrument is not in your hand, it should be on its hook on the wall.
  - Purposeful damage to an instrument will result in a discipline action and charge for repairs of that instrument.
  - Any changes in condition or damage should be reported immediately.
- Students should be respectful of each other and teacher during class. No noodling.
  - Noodling is any noise from an instrument while the teacher is talking.

## Grading

Your grade in this class is determined by a combination of observations during class, playing tests, and written assessments.

- Daily Participation (**singing** and playing) 80%  
(Informal and formal classroom observation)
- In class work and assessments 20%  
(Written tests, individual, and group song project)

## General Music Standards

### **1) Demonstrating effective practice habits**

- Observed during class time when individual practice is assigned as well as during group projects.
- Students should demonstrate the practice habits that are discussed in class.
- For full credit on this standard, the student is always on task, with minimal redirection, and shows that they are performing the assigned task.

### **2) Demonstrating music literacy**

- Observed and assessed during class time and with written assessments.
- Students should demonstrate that they can identify the parts and functions of the instrument.
- Student should demonstrate that they can identify and play with the proper technique.
  - The notes in the treble clef from middle C to the C above.
  - The notes of the C major scale on the ukulele fret board.
  - Whole, Half, Quarter, and Eighth note rhythms.
  - Basic chord diagrams for the instrument.

### **3) Performs music independently and with others**

- Observed and assessed during class time and group projects.
- Student should demonstrate that they can:
  - Play a basic melody on the instrument.
  - Play the assigned chord progression with a simple strum pattern.
  - Keep a steady beat, without losing a beat when changing chords.
  - Sing at the same time that they play chords.
  - Work with a group and do the above.
  - Work with a group to find ways to create changes to a song.

## Class Units and Project

### **Unit 1: The Basics**

- Sitting posture, Ukulele parts, string names and numbers, and instrument care.
- *Practice concept 1:* Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong.
- Tests on ukulele parts, string names, note letters, etc.

### **Unit 2: Pitches in first Position**

- Notes of the C major scale and the location on the instrument.
- *Reading concepts:* Looking ahead in music, watching for patterns and changes, and rhythm reading.
- *Practice concept 2:* Practice fundamental skills.
- *Practice concept 3:* Work on skills that are difficult for you, more than those that are easy.
- Playing test: C major scale while naming pitches out loud.
- Written test on note identification on staff and fret board.
- Extensions: Improvising using C major scale with the chord patterns, and finger picking each string with different fingers.

### **Unit 3: Pitches in first position**

- Basic strum technique
- Chords: C F, G7, G, Am
- Learning chord changes
- *Reading concepts:* Chord diagrams, reading Strum notation (Down and up strokes)
- *Practice concept 4:* Isolate and master individual skills before combining them
- *Practice concept 5:* Build speed gradually to avoid introducing mistakes
- *Practice concept 6:* Track progress in order to maintain resiliency and analyze practice habits
- Playing test: Assigned chord changes on quarter notes
- Written test on chord diagram identification, strumming concepts, and tracking of chord change log
- Extensions: eight notes strumming

### **Unit 4: Ensemble Playing**

- Playing with a partner
- Playing with an ensemble

### **Final Project: Four Chord Song**

- Students work in small groups (no more than 3) to create a "Cover Song" – **ALL students sing** while using the basic chord progression, then perform it for class.
- Videos will be taken of the performances and posted on Google Drive and Schoology for parents to view.

## Student and Parent School Ukulele Use Agreement

In the event of any misconduct or mistreatment of a school instrument or materials provided; The student will lose his/her privilege to participate in this class and will be given an alternative assignment.

An instrument will be assigned to each student to use in class the first week. **This agreement must be signed and returned before the end of the first week.** Please read the agreement carefully and understand that in the event of damage to a school owned instrument, the repair charges will be the responsibility of the student and his/her parents.

It is a privilege to use a classroom instrument while in general music.  
**Any repair charges will be the responsibility of the student and his/her parents.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Instrument Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that damage incurred due to irresponsibility or that was preventable on the part of the student, will be charged to the student at a full repair price. Students are expected to take care of school instruments the same as if they owned them.*

I agree to hold myself responsible for the loss or any damages which may come to this instrument or its accessories **while in my care** (during the class period). I agree that I will not allow any other person to use the instrument assigned to me and that I will return it to its proper place (hanging on the wall) each day.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent of student named above, I agree to be responsible for any damage to the instrument and its accessories as described above.

**Parent/Guardian**  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_