

SYVCS GUITAR ELECTIVES 1 & 2

If students do not have an instrument they have the option of "borrowing" a guitar or bass to take home for practice and exploration.

The school was gifted these magnificent instruments by The James Burton Foundation with help from Jimmy and Michaela Messina. SYVCS is eternally grateful for this amazing gift and will always remember their incredible kindness and love of music.

GUITAR 1

Tuning

Finger Placement

Open Chords

A Am B7 C D Dm E Em Fmaj7 G

Intro to "America's Music, The Blues"

Performances:

Solo - Happy Birthday

Whole Class - Circle Songs

(These songs use the same 3-4 chords over and over, reinforcing finger placement and memorization of chord shapes)

List of Circle Songs (these are examples):

1. Sweet Home Alabama - Lynyrd Skynyrd
2. Shake It Off - Taylor Swift
3. Old Town Road - Lil Nas X
4. First - Cold War Kids
5. I Gotta Feeling - The Black Eyed Peas
6. Radioactive - Imagine Dragons
7. Safe And Sound - Capital Cities
8. Wake Me Up - Avicii
9. Stand By Me - Ben E King
10. Better When I'm Dancing - Meghan Trainor

Final Test: Playing all 10 open chords in under 30 seconds.

GUITAR 2

Building on Guitar 1 "Circle Songs" we start to add more complex parts such as verse, chorus, bridge, intro and outro.

Introduction to bar chords (how they are formed and secrets behind them)

Bb Bm C#m F Gm

In depth look at Blues music, including artists, styles and its musical influence on Rock And Roll.

- How B.B. King, Howlin Wolf, Muddy Waters and many others influenced the British Invasion (Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles), and in-turn, influenced America and the world

Introduction to Riffs and Power Chords

Example material:

1. Back In Black - AC/DC
2. Seven Nation Army - The White Stripes
3. Immigrant Song - Led Zeppelin

Performances:

- Winter and Spring Shows
- In class play alongs to music

Song List includes:

1. Hotel California - Eagles
2. Centuries - Fall Out Boy
3. Don't Stop Believing - Journey
4. Keep Your Hands To Yourself - Georgia Satellites
5. Wagon Wheel - Darius Rucker
6. Girls Like You - Maroon 5
7. Seven Nation Army - White Stripes
8. Drops Of Jupiter - Train
9. Johnny B Goode - Chuck Berry
10. Ocean Eyes - Billie Eilish

Final Test:

- Research 3 songs using any means possible.
(Google search, an App, talking to someone!?)
- Deduce the songs to their basics: Verse, Chorus, Bridge etc.
- Teach them to the class.

The bigger picture...

By the end of the Guitar 2 students:

- Know how to play most chords
- Understand song structure
- Have been introduced to music history
- Know how to look up and play songs for their own enjoyment