

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Program Sub-Committee**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**May 4, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/mxi-xrnn-uwz>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 219-390-9951 and enter this PIN: 141 723 313#

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments
4. Discussion of Guitar Course Proposal (Encl. 4.1)
5. Public Comments
6. Adjournment

If a member of the public requires a physical space and the equipment to attend this virtual meeting in real-time, a request must be made to Jessica Rainville via email at [jessica.rainville@rhamschools.org](mailto:jessica.rainville@rhamschools.org) by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

**(Encl. 4.1)**

## **Course Proposal for Class Beginning in 2024/2025 Academic Year Guitar I and II**

**Course Name:** Guitar I and II

**Department:** Music

**Instructor:** Robinson

### **Description:**

Guitar I and II will aim to provide students with an opportunity to engage in the RHAM Music Program through the guitar. This course will act as an introduction to the medium, targeting students with little or no prior experience with the instrument. It is designed to be accessible to musicians and non-musicians alike, from different musical backgrounds and interests. There will be no performance expectations or out-of-class rehearsals.

### **Rational:**

As a string and rhythm section player since middle school, I have had and witnessed a significant level of curiosity in guitar or bass performance from students who do not have access to or interest in choir or traditional classical instruments featured in most school band programs. As a teacher, I have directly asked students if they would want to take a potential guitar class instead of or in addition to band, choir, or music technology, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

It has been proven that students who participate in the arts achieve stronger academic results and overall engagement in school. The Guitar I course would serve as an entry-level music class that would help to make music more accessible to the entire student body.

Successful completion of Guitar I would be a prerequisite for Guitar II. If these classes are popular, the course could be expanded to include Guitar III and IV, allowing students not engaged in traditional instrumental and choral classes to participate in music for their entire high school experience. Skills acquired in the guitar course could be directly applied to other music classes and ensembles, including music theory, music production, and jazz ensemble.

Additionally, with the expanded graduation requirements, students now need to accumulate a significant number of elective credits in order to graduate. The entry level nature of the class would make a perfect freshman elective of which there are currently not enough.

This class would also appeal to our current music students, and particularly those pursuing a music degree. Currently, our students planning to major in music are encouraged to take private piano or guitar lessons as preparation for their college programs, since a reasonable proficiency is expected of students completing nearly every undergraduate program. For these students, and our students not planning for a career in music, it will provide an opportunity to learn this instrument and introduce the possibility of continuing to play it for the rest of their lives.

**Pre-Requisites:** None for Guitar I; a C or better in Guitar I or teacher recommendation required for Guitar II

**Objectives: Guitar I**

By the end of the semester course, students will be able to:

- Understand appropriate guitar fingering and picking techniques
- Play C, G, and D major open chords
- Play A and E minor open chords
- Play major and minor scales starting on E and A strings
- Read and play beginner chord progressions by chord symbol and notation
- Compose beginner guitar chord progressions
- Utilize productive practicing skills

**Objectives: Guitar II**

By the end of the semester course, students will be able to:

- Understand advanced guitar fingering and picking techniques
- Name and identify notes on the fretboard for all six strings
- Play A, E, and F major open chords
- Play major and minor barre chords
- Read and play intermediate chord progressions by chord symbol and notation
- Compose intermediate guitar chord progressions
- Utilize productive practicing and performance techniques

**Materials:**

Materials required and provided for class include:

- Acoustic guitars
- Computers
- Headphones
- Recording interfaces
- Recording software
- Curriculum writing will be required for these courses