

TAFAs Beginner Guitar Class Syllabus  
Fall 2011

Dear parents:

Thank you so much for enrolling your child in this guitar class!! Music has been a source of great joy in my life, and I hope each student will learn to share that joy this semester...

Here are a few logistical items that can help ensure the classes go smoothly:

\*A guitar. Yes, these help. ☺ Preferably acoustic (for sheer audibility if nothing else), with all its strings and necessary parts :) and enough quality to hold its tuning. We will talk in class about how to tune the guitar, but it will expedite everyone's learning experience if the guitar is as tuned as possible when your child enters the classroom. If you don't have a family member or friend who can help in the selection and maintenance of a guitar, never hesitate to contact me for advice.

\*The FJH Young Beginner Guitar Method: Lesson Book 1 is the book we'll be drawing from, and each student will need their own copy. These retail for less than \$10, and I recommend the one with accompanying audio CD to practice with. Sold at most music stores, publisher's site at <http://www.fjhmusic.com/guitar/ybg1.htm>

\*A spiral notebook (or equivalent) to write homework in (simple, usually "August 29, pages 5-7" etc).

\*A writing utensil

\*A guitar pick (at least one)

\*A practice regimen: Some of us are self-motivated, some require external stimuli, but whatever the case, I see growth in my music students when they practice 3-5 times a week for half an hour. Of course with the beginner classes we may not have 30 minutes worth of practice material right away, but that's the goal.

\*A James 1:17 attitude, in me and your child. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." I believe that all artistic gifts reflect on the goodness of the Giver and don't depend on the worthiness of the recipient. As such, I try and conduct my life and my classes to foster a spirit of humility and enthusiasm about learning, with patience when students rush ahead or fall behind, because no two kids will begin or end the semester with the same ability level.

I'm happy to answer any questions you have via e-mail, and I can't wait to see what we will all learn this semester! Thanks again...

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