



## Welcome to Cosby High School Bluegrass Guitar

### Coach Kurry Cody

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Welcome to Cosby High School's first Bluegrass Guitar Course. There will be a multitude of musical experiences you will learn in this course. Music, in general, is a vast, complex area of art that requires a set of skills, patience, and understanding. Bluegrass is a style of music that incorporates rhythm, drive, and timing that can be contributed to all other genres of music. Hopefully, by the end of this course, you will be able to play a guitar with a concentration in a bluegrass-style of strumming and picking.

#### **Materials:**

- Guitars
- Picks (medium/heavy, .85mm to 2.0mm)
- Strings (medium gauge, D'Addario Phosphor Bronze )
- Capos (clamp version)
- Tuners

#### **Instructional Units:**

Learning guitar is a majority of hands-on learning, each unit can collaborate with another because it is versatile and complex. You will constantly be referring to introductory concepts as you progress through the course. Each unit has its own level of difficulty. As a result, the challenge of each unit can affect the progress a student will make. The more a student practices, the more you will progress as a guitar player. By the end of the course, the hope is that a student will take their knowledge learned and become a lifelong, aspiring musician.

- **Guitar Intro Basics**
  - Open-String Notes (EADGBE)
  - Tuning

- **Chords (bluegrass specificity)**
  - Major (A, C, D, E, F, G)
  - Minor (Am, Bm, Em, Dm)
  - Seventh Chords (C7, D7)
  - Alternate chord shapes (drive)
  - Drop-D tuning (specific chords)
- **Rhythm Techniques**
  - Boom-Chuck
  - Drive Rhythm (Downbeat)
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  Time Rhythm (Boom-Chuck)
  - Rhythm with switching between chords
  - Diamonds
- **Keys (specific to bluegrass)**
  - Key of B (most prevalent)
  - Key of B#
  - Key of A
  - Key of G
  - Key of C
  - Key of E
- **Nashville Number System**
  - 1-4-5
  - 1-4-1-5
- **The G-Run**
  - C-Run
  - D-Run
- **Studying the music of major bluegrass bands** (listening for concepts learned, such as the key, chords used, chord progressions, rhythm techniques, etc. Depending on student progress, students will play along to songs.)
  - Flatt & Scruggs
  - Stanley Brothers
  - Bill Monroe
  - JD Crowe & the New South
  - Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
  - Country Gentlemen

- Seldom Scene
- Hot Rize
- Bluegrass Cardinals
- Lonesome River Band
- Blue Highway
- Illrd Tyme Out
- & many more
- Harmony
  - Lead
  - Tenor
  - Baritone
  - Bass
- Major Pentatonic Scales (Advanced Unit)
  - G
  - C
  - D
- Reading Tabs (Advanced Unit)
- Fiddle Tunes (Advanced Unit)
- Cross Picking (Advanced Unit)

### **Grading:**

Caring and Correct Use of Equipment (45%)

Various Assignments (25%)

Midterm Exam (15%)

Final Exam (15%)