**7th Grade Exploratory—“Pop Strings”**

**JTMMS—Mr. McGuire—pmcguire@rlas-116.org**

**Course Description/Objectives**

The quarter-long “Pop Strings” course has been designed to provide students with basic performance skills on acoustic guitar and the ukulele. This class offers varied opportunities for performance, listening, analysis, and creation. Students will learn basic chord progressions, proper technique, reading tablature, and basic maintenance of the instruments.

**Required Supplies**

* 1” binder OR folder with spaces for 3-hole punched paper.
* Pen or Pencil
* Student Agenda
* earbuds or headphones (when necessary)
* USB Jump Drive (when necessary)

**Class Policies**

***Promptness/Tardy Policy***

It is essential that all students arrive in class on time. The classroom’s location on the ground floor will at NO TIME be an acceptable excuse for tardiness. Tardies will severely limit the amount of freedom you are given in regards to passes, partner work, etc. Upon receipt of the 3rd tardy to class, the student will receive a formal write up. Successive tardies will result in further disciplinary action.

***Passes***

Each student will receive 3 bathroom passes per quarter. In order to leave the room, the student MUST have their personal agenda with them. If a student uses all of their passes in a quarter, no extras will be given. These should be used for emergency situations only.

***Behavior Expectations***

Students will follow all of the expectations of the school, keeping in mind the pillars of Respect, Responsibility, and Caring and those policies outlined in the “In the Know.” In addition, the following rules apply to the music classroom.

1. Do not touch or play ANY instrument (piano, drums, guitar, etc) or equipment (microphones, stands, computers, etc) without the permission of Mr. McGuire.

2. In order to leave the room when the bell rings, the floor must be picked up, desks and equipment need to be in their proper place, and students must be seated and silent.

3. Remain seated and attentive when Mr. McGuire or another student is speaking to/performing for the group.

4. Valid questions are welcome at any time, but students must first raise their hands.

**Major Assessments:**

All class assessments are indicated on the “Pop Strings Skills Checklist”. Those marked with an \* are performance assessments and a rubric will be provided. Others will be assessed using short quizzes or classwork.

**Daily Assignments:**

Daily assignments will consist of various individual/partner assignments as well as a Daily Theory Journal which will familiarize you with note and rhythm reading. The Theory Journal will be collected and graded twice per quarter.

**Class Participation:**

This class is based heavily in performance. While students will not be graded solely on their performance skills, students WILL be graded on their participation in the day’s activities as well as how well they demonstrate their understanding of the material. The grading criteria for participation will include; attentiveness, contribution to class, and classroom practice/work habits.

**Grading Policies:**

***Major Assessments/Projects*** Students will be graded using a rubric that will be supplied prior to each test.

***Class Work/Participation***: This will include supportive work including listening journals, in-class exercises, vocab/writing assignments, etc

***Late Work/Missing Work****:* Late work will be accepted as outlined in the RLAS “In the Know”.

* **The INSTRUMENT USE CONTRACT will be given to you on the first day of class. This will be DUE on the date stated on the bottom of the contract. You MUST return the contract before you will be allowed to use an instrument.**