

# 2023-2024 Freedom High School Guitar Program



GUITAR FOUNDATION OF AMERICA



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**What makes up the Freedom High School Guitar Program?** We are an internationally recognized guitar program, comprised of yearlong accredited classes and ensembles that meet one period during school every day. Students who successfully complete a guitar class receive one credit. Successfully completing guitar fulfills the FDOE Performing Arts elective required for graduation.



**How many students are enrolled in the guitar program?** The FHS Guitar Program is one of the largest Performing Arts electives offered with over 150 students enrolled in one of three entry level I classes or three ability-based Guitar Ensembles. Due to classroom space and the number of guitars available each period, there may be up to 30 students enrolled each class or ensemble.

**What guitar classes are offered at FHS?**

**Guitar Level 1 (Beginning Guitar):** Students will learn how to read and play notated music, learn traditional and Barre chords, major and minor scales, arpeggios, power chords, read and use guitar tablature, playing the blues and performing solo and ensemble guitar literature.

**FHS Guitar Ensembles (GO) - “Guitar Orchestra”, (Advanced Guitar Ensembles) “Tasto” & “Ponticello”:** The FHS Guitar Program offers to students, through audition and based on experience, several multi-level, performance-oriented guitar ensembles. Previous experience in playing guitar and reading music is required. Auditions evaluate student ability to ensure proper ensemble placement.  
**All students are invited to join!**

**FHS Guitar Conservatory (GC):** The Guitar Conservatory is a highly specialized class for students preparing to **audition for college** and major in guitar performance or to become a guitar teacher. Class sizes are small (**only five to ten students**) and geared toward individual development of reading, musical interpretation and performance skills through private in-school lessons, master classes and independent study of solo literature and scales. **Students enrolled in Guitar Conservatory must also be enrolled in one of the Guitar Ensembles.**

Rehearsals and performances outside the school day are expected. Students will prepare music to perform in concerts, events and festivals throughout the school year. All will develop performance skills, musical techniques and play intermediate to advanced solo and ensemble guitar literature. Audition materials are posted mid-March as a pdf link on the FHS Guitar Website, at [www.fhsguitar.net](http://www.fhsguitar.net).

**Which guitar classes perform outside the school day?** The FHS Guitar Ensembles do performances for the guitar program each year. Depending on motivation, class makeup and involvement, performance opportunities may be available for students enrolled in Guitar 1.

The FHS Guitar Ensembles continually present concerts at Freedom High School, and have performed at various area resorts including Walt Disney World, Sea World and at national and international level music conferences and guitar festivals. We have continuous opportunities for our students and ensembles to perform at various guitar festivals across the United States.



**Do I need to purchase my own guitar for home practice?** It is highly recommended that students have their own guitar at home for practice. It may be an acoustic, classical, or electric guitar. Mr. Perez can recommend what music store to visit regarding the type of guitar and accessories to purchase.

**Does Freedom High School have its' own class set of guitars?** Yes! The FHS Guitar Program own sets of classical and acoustic guitars for our students to use in class, for ensemble rehearsals and performances.



**Is there a fee for Guitar Ensemble or Class?**

There is a \$30-\$50 Guitar Class/Ensemble fee required from each student. Fees collected are used to purchase a class book (Guitar I students keep the book), replacement guitar strings, sheet music, repair/upkeep/replacement of guitars and cases, cover expenses to travel and perform at guitar festivals, Music Performance Assessments, plus clinics and master classes with internationally known guitarists who work and perform with our students and ensembles.



**Can students be in more than one Performing Arts class at FHS?** Yes! Our Performing Arts Department philosophy and scheduling ability allows guitar students to also be in band, chorus, color guard, dance, drama, orchestra, piano and/or AP Music Theory. All Performing Arts teachers openly support each other, knowing that our students will have a better and broader music education experiences by being in multiple performing arts classes at Freedom HS.

If you have any questions regarding joining next year, please contact Mr. Perez by phone, email or learn more about us from our website, [www.fhsguitar.net](http://www.fhsguitar.net).

The FHS Performing Arts Department and Guitar Program look forward to your participation in the upcoming 2023-24 school year. We hope you join our talented family!!!



The FHS Guitar Program proudly endorse the **NEW WORLD** "Player Series" model of guitars by the Hill Guitar Company, Ben Lomond, California.

