

Course Outline: Ukulele Café

Ukulele Cafe is a beginning level course for ukulele (soprano and/or concert size instruments). Students will learn enough basics to start practicing and performing independently. The culminating experience is a luau-style performance. Prerequisites: students must furnish their own instrument.

Course Goals and Objectives

Students will learn the fundamentals of the instrument with a focus on chords and strumming. Additional topics include the history and fundamentals of the instrument. Class sessions will include individual songs, various styles, and a class performance.

- History of the ukulele
- Tuning, changing strings, basic care
- Proper holding and basic playing technique
- Chords I- reading chord charts and basic strumming
- Chords II- advanced strumming and reading lead sheets
- Group and solo practice
- Microphones and sound systems
- Luau concert (outdoors)

Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions. Points are awarded based on student *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 – 92	B+ = 87 - 89	B = 83 - 86	B- = 80 - 82	C+ = 77 - 79	C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72	D+ = 63 - 69	D = 60 - 62	F = 0 - 59			

Preparation and Participation (approx. 80%): Students who are present and prepared earn 8 points each class session as follows: 4 points for bringing instrument/materials and 4 points for active engagement in class activities. If the instrument is “in the shop” students must make arrangements to use a school loaner at least one day in advance or they will not receive credit for the session. Students who are not in class receive a zero. However, an *excused* absence can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to practice/review any missed material. Unprepared grades cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

Assessment (approx. 20%): Students earn 4 points for properly performing any assignments. This may include presentations, musical exercises, or complete songs/performance. Students who are not in class receive a zero for the assignment. However, this can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to perform/submit the assignment.

Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until credit recovery is completed in the summer.

Attendance: Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their “good standing” status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

Team Work: Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*. All students must bring home their instrument after each class, as this contributes to good practice habits and opens needed space in the storage area.