

## **WKSA Beginning Guitar Program**

WKSA's guitar program provides students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above a structured method and setting to learn to play the guitar. Beginning classes focus on developing proper instrument position, note reading (not tabs), strumming and picking technique, basic chords and simple songs, developing musicality and appreciation of music, and ultimately creating habits of practice and listening that will ensure a successful future as an instrumentalist. As students progress, they can play in guitar and mix-instrument groups, further developing the skills necessary for performing with other musicians.

The program involves three main components:

1. Guitar class/ensemble—students are placed in one of three possible groups which meet on Saturday mornings. Each group performs at least 2 community performances and 1 formal concert during the year.
  - a. Level I Class (50 minutes)—for students with no previous background
  - b. Level II Class (90 minutes)—for students who have learned the basics (instrument hold, simple chords, etc) but are still developing knowledge of open position notes and music reading.
  - c. Guitar Ensemble (90 minutes)—a performing group with mixed parts. Students will continue individual technical development as well as learn how to play in an ensemble. A variety of classical and popular music will be played.
2. Private Lessons—each student is assigned a private guitar instructor for 10 half-hour lessons per semester. Teachers help students continue instrumental and performance skills. Lessons are scheduled at mutually convenient times with your assigned instructor. Parents, especially of younger students, are encouraged to sit in on private lessons to better assist with home practice. Note: All WKSA students enrolled in the Saturday morning program are required to take private lessons, provided by WKSA or independently arranged. If a student already has an independently arranged private instructor, they should enroll for “Saturday-only” status, with a reduced fee.
3. Electives—a variety of elective classes and special ensembles are offered on Saturday mornings which students can sign up for on Registration Day. Tentative Fall 09 offerings include: Bass Guitar, Bluegrass Workshop, Drumming; Music Appreciation; Renaissance Troupe; Fiddling group, “I Heard it on the Radio,” and Ear Training.

### **Costs for Saturday Morning Guitar Program**

Cost for WKSA's Guitar Program is \$300 per year (or \$165/semester), and includes the following:

- 20 private lessons (10 per semester)\*
- 20-24 weeks of ensemble rehearsals (10 to 12 per semester)
- Participation in weekly elective classes (10 weeks per semester)
- 2 to 4 community performances, depending on ensemble
- Year-end group performance concert in Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
- Year-end educational juries for critique and advancement
- Musical field trips/Social Activities
- WKSA t-shirt
- D'Addario Care Package (set of strings, pick and, polish cloth)

\*If students provide their own private teacher, fees are \$150 per year (or \$80/semester).

Fees may be paid in installments. Family discounts for multiple students, and financial assistance for eligible families is also available. Please contact WKSA staff for details.