

Course Overview/Description

The 7th grade *Rockin' and Strummin'* course is a forced elective term course offering. *Rockin' and Strummin'* is designed to give students a hands on musical experience that implements basic general music concepts learned in previous courses.

The course will take students on a journey through the capabilities of the ukulele instrument. In the beginning, students will learn the parts and standard tuning of a ukulele. After understanding these basic concepts, students will explore chord progressions, tablature, and composition using the ukulele. This is a self-paced course that offers students a chance to progress at the pace of their own learning.

Scope and Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
2 days	Parts of the Ukulele	Project Task 1 - Identify the strings of the ukulele (G,C,E,A) Project Task 3 - Identify the parts of the uke (tuning pegs, head, neck, nut, fretboard, frets, strings, soundhole, body, bridge, and saddle)
2 days	How to Tune Your Uke	Project Task 2 - Demonstrate how to tune your uke (Identifying the strings of the uke; Using a tuner)
1 Week	Tablature: What is it?	Project Task 4 - Play a melody on the uke using tablature (number symbols on a diagram to teach music; reading tablature; Playing "Twinkle Twinkle" on the uke)
3 Weeks	Reading and Playing Chords	Project Task 5 - Play the chords C,F, and G Project Task 6 - Play the chords C, F, and G using a pick Project Task 7 - Play the chords C, F, and G as a duet (Reading chord diagrams; understanding chord fingerings; strumming; what is a duet?)
3 Weeks	How to Read a Chord Sheet	Project Task 8 - Play a song that uses 3 chords

		Project Task 12 - Play a song that uses 5 chords (Finding patterns in a chord sheet; what is a chord sheet; Determining strum patterns for songs; Creating your own cover)
2 Weeks	How to Write a Song	Project Task 13 - Compose a 4-chord progression Project Task 14 - Compose a melody to go with your progression (What is a progression; how do I make it sound good; how do I write a melody to fit my progression)
Remaining Time	Transition to Guitar	Students who complete the tasks early can move on to the guitar. They will go through the same project tasks as before only on the guitar

Course Details

The course is a flipped classroom where most of the instruction is online through video tutorials that I've created for each project (or project task). At the start of the term, the students are instructed in person as well as through my videos as a full class. As students start to progress, they are allowed to work at their own pace, using the videos to guide their learning. Therefore, the timeframe and units are fluid depending on each student's progress. I put an estimate timeframe above for each unit, although we don't follow a strict structure.

Below are the project tasks that they are to complete by the end of the term. If students complete their project tasks for the uke, they can proceed to the guitar, completing the same project tasks with that instrument.

Project Tasks

- 1) Identify the string names of the uke - *what are the strings on a uke?*
- 2) Demonstrate how to tune your ukulele - *how do I use a tuner/piano to tune?*
- 3) Identify the parts of a ukulele - *fret, soundhole, body, neck, head, tuning peg*
- 4) Play a melody using tablature - *what is a melody; what is tablature; how do I read tabs?*
- 5) Play the chords C, F, G using the uke - *what is a chord; how do I read chords?*
- 6) Play the chords C, F, G using a pick - *how do I use a pick?*
- 7) Play the chords C, F, G as a duet - *what is a chord progression; what is a duet?*
- 8) Play a song that uses three different chords - *how do I read chord symbols?*
- 9) Play the chords D, G, A using the uke - *how do I adjust my fingers for chords?*
- 10) Play the chords D, G, A using an up/down strum pattern - *what is a strum pattern?*
- 11) Play the chords D, G, A as a duet using a strum pattern
- 12) Play a song that uses five different chords
- 13) Compose a 4-chord progression- *how do I notate music?*
- 14) Compose a melody for the 4-chord progression - *how do I use chords to write a melody?*
- 15) Play your composition as a duet with another person - *what is a duet?*