



# ECA Guitar Program 2022

## Introduction to Guitar (2nd-6th Grade)

An ideal course for beginners! We focus on the fundamentals of guitar to prepare budding musicians to succeed in their musical endeavors! This course concentrates on developing motor skills and introduces students to notes and chords on the guitar, establishing a strong sense of rhythm and setting a good foundation.

Class meets on Fridays from 3:05pm-3:35pm. First class is February 11.

## Beginner to Intermediate Group Guitar Lessons (7th-12th Grade)

ECA is pleased to offer a group guitar class for students from beginner to intermediate levels. This class will introduce students to the core elements of guitar such as chords, rhythm and timing, and will have the goal of equipping students with the tools necessary to continue enjoying guitar for the rest of their lives.

Students in this group will be taught a combination of ear training and chord theory with a focus on worship and traditional folk styles of music.

Class meets on Wednesdays from 2:50pm-3:20pm. First class is February 9.

## Rates & Fees:

- Registration Fee: \$25
- Guitar Group Rate: \$65 a month billed thru FACTS
- Program includes a total of 12 lessons from February 9-May 25 with scheduled school breaks.
- Spring Semester Billing: February 15-May 15

Students 2nd-12th grade will have the option of performing either individually or in groups in the ECA Spring Recital!

# Meet Our Teacher

*Keith Birdsong*

Keith has been teaching private guitar for 10 years and has been heavily involved in church worship music his entire life. He has been playing guitar for 14 years, has recorded guitar and vocals on 11 albums, and has travelled for various music groups as both a guitarist and vocalist.

Keith teaches his students guitar fundamentals and ear training from the beginning and integrates timeless guitar pieces and worship music into his students' repertoire, enabling them to acquire a multi-disciplinary set of skills.

# Our Curriculum

*Christian Guitar: A Beginner's Guide with Step-by-Step Instruction and 18 Great Worship Songs to Learn and Play by Hal Leonard*

This simple book will provide a solid foundation for new guitarists, and will be a perfect on-ramp to all types of guitar playing. ECA will purchase the curriculum for the students.

# Get the Gear

Every student will need their own guitar, a strap, some guitar picks, and an electronic tuner. Often, when purchasing a guitar, these accessories are sold with the instrument in, what is called, a gig bag. There are many different sizes of guitars, and students will need an instrument that fits comfortably on their lap, that they can easily reach their arms around, and that stays in tune. Students of all ages can find quality guitars from \$70-\$200. Here are some recommendations:

For smaller guitarists - Yamaha JR2 ¾ Scale Folk Guitar with Gig Bag (Price is around \$180.)

For bigger guitarists - Yamaha GigMaker Acoustic Guitar Pack (Includes guitar, bag, strap, picks, and digital tuner. Price is around \$190.)

# Sign Up!

To register, please visit [ecanewington.com/music](http://ecanewington.com/music). Class sizes are limited to 15 students.

# Policies and Procedures

## Semester Lessons

Group guitar lessons at ECA are a semester-long program for a total of 12 lessons billed over 4 months. The teacher will provide a detailed class calendar at the first lesson.

## Practice and Performances

Students are required to complete practice assignments by the teacher in order to continue receiving lessons.

Performances are not required but encouraged! A guitar recital will be held once per semester which will be announced later in the semester.

Students must have a guitar for home use, and must bring it with them to lessons.

## Billing

Billing for group guitar lessons will be done through FACTS. Students agree to commit to one semester of lessons.

Student accounts with past due balances will not be eligible to continue lessons until the account is made current.

## Online Lessons

Online lessons (via Zoom) are available for students who are well enough to have a lesson but not well enough to leave home, or for situations such as lack of transportation. Students are responsible to contact the teacher to set up a Zoom call if they are unable to attend class in person.

If a student is absent and is unable to attend a Zoom meeting, they will be sent a recording of the lesson. Any absences will not be made up and will not be subject to a refund/credit.

## Teacher Absence and Snow Days

Lessons missed due to a teacher absence or snow days will be made up during scheduled lesson breaks or at a time convenient for both the students and teacher.