



**BOYD HOLMES**  
MUSICIAN • COMPOSER • EDUCATOR • CONSULTANT  
boyd@boydholmes.com • 207 S. Bancroft Parkway • Wilmington, DE 19805 • 302-425-0392

## **Beginning Guitar: It's All About the Groove –**

Field-proven pedagogical tips, techniques, and theories for beginning guitar in the elementary, middle, and high school general music class.

Participants need to bring a guitar and guitar pick to this session.

- Preparation for teaching beginning guitar
  - Required student equipment –
    - One guitar for every two students, picks, chairs, guitar stands, tambourines
  - Required teaching equipment –
    - amplified guitar, mic, XLR mic cable, amp with two inputs, boom mic stand, picks, chairs, guitar stands, tambourines
  - Teaching environment
  - Reasonable expectations
  - Singing repertoire
  - Teacher's skill/comfort level
  - Tuning: EADGBE vs. open D
  - Why groove?
- First meeting
  - Respect for instruments
  - Nomenclature
  - Pilot/Co-pilot – someone is always helping
  - Picking up/putting back the instrument –

- “Two hands on the neck and freeze”
    - “Do-si-do”
  - Transferring the instrument – “The Slide”
  - Experimenting with making a sound
- Second meeting
  - Reinforcing first class skills
  - Holding the pick – Post-it note
  - What if the pick falls?
  - Pick in the air
  - “The Down-Up”
  - “The Double Down-Up”
  - “The Triple Down-Up”
  - “The Quadruple Down-Up”
  - “The Buzz Lightyear Down-Up”
- Third Meeting
  - Review of previous skills
  - Teaching first song
  - Using intros/tag endings
- Fourth meeting
  - Review of previous skills
  - Review of previous songs
  - Adding tambourines
- Moving from open D tuning to EADGBE
- Questions / Conclusion