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School Guitar Teachers Group

School Guitar Teachers
Class Method Book List

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This document is intended to be a comprehensive list of text/method books that can be used to teach classroom guitar classes at any level. If you add a book to the list please give the Name , composer and publisher, general style of the book, appropriate grade level, and a link on where to find it. Please do not use this list as a place to post negative comments about a particular book or method. Keep all comments constructive and as fact based as possible. If you want opinions on a particular book post a thread in the group. If you have written your own method book please feel free to add it to the list.

Book Name	Composer and Publisher	General Style/Notation	Grade Level	Link	important information
Essential Elements Book 1	Will Schmid, Bob Morris. Hal Leonard	Mix of all styles, but primarily pop, rock, folk. Notes, Leadsheet/ Chords, and Tablature	Beginner	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=862639&subsiteid=7	Picks are the primary method of playing. Finger picking is free stroke only. Teachers Chords and single notes at the same time.
A Modern Approach to Classical Guitar Book 1	Charles Duncan Hal Leonard	Classical Standard Notation Only	Beginner	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=00695114&subsiteid=7	Teaches rest stroke and single notes. Gets students reading classical style music early. Moves quick There are two editions make sure you get the second one.
Beginning Classroom Guitar	Philip Hemmo Open Source	Classical/Pop/ Modern	Beginner	https://books.google.com/books/about/Beginning_Classroom_Guitar.html?id=HkYqPwAACAAJ	Contact author for FREE sharable PDF
Hands On Training (H.O.T.) Book 1 (also available in Book 2)	Nancy Marsters	Skill-Based, with folk songs. Standard notation	Beginner	http://www.classguitar.com/	Great, skill-based approach, to be supplemented with other song books

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Beginning Guitar Method Quarter 1	Bill Swick	Skill-based to fulfill national standards	Beginner	http://billswick.com/category/skill-builders/methods/	Skill-based approach with or without supplementary materials
Beginning Guitar Method Quarter 2	Bill Swick	Skill-based to fulfill national standards	Beginner	http://billswick.com/category/skill-builders/methods/	Skill-based approach with or without supplementary materials
Beginning Guitar Method Quarter 3	Bill Swick	Skill-based to fulfill national standards	Beginner	http://billswick.com/category/skill-builders/methods/	Skill-based approach with or without supplementary materials
Beginning Guitar Method Quarter 4	Bill Swick	Skill-based to fulfill national standards	Beginner	http://billswick.com/category/skill-builders/methods/	Skill-based approach with or without supplementary materials
Teaching Beginning Guitar Class: A Practical Guide	Bill Swick	Ideal for non-guitar playing music educators teaching classroom guitar	Beginner	https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=bill+swick	Step-by-step with weekly lesson plans for the entire school year
Essential Elements Book 2	Bob Morris. Hal Leonard	Mix of all styles, but primarily pop, rock, folk. Notes, Leadsheet/ Chords, and Tablature	Advanced Beginner/Intermediate Good for second year players or second semester for full year courses.	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=120873&lid=1&keywords=essential%20elements%20for%20guitar%20book%202&searchcategory=00&subsiteid=7&	Picks and fingerpicking are used as the primary method of playing. Introduces travis fingerpicking. Heavy emphasis on barre chords.

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A Modern Approach to Classical Guitar Book 2	Charles Duncan Hal Leonard	Classical Standard Notation Only	Intermediate	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=695113&keywords=a%20modern%20approach%20to%20classical%20guitar%20book%202&searchcategory=00&subsiteid=7&	This book is a good introduction into classical guitar textures, patterns, and voicings. Moves fast. There are two editions make sure you get the second one.
Pumping Nylon	Scott Tennant	Classical Technique book Standard notation but you can get editions with tablature.	Intermediate/ Advanced	http://www.alfred.com/Products/Pumping-Nylon-Complete--00-35448.aspx	Wonderful technique book. Over 100 right hand exercises. Available as an iBook
GuitarCurriculum.com	Austin Classical Guitar Society	Classical Standard notation (Rote-to-Note)	Beginner to Advanced	http://guitarcurriculum.com/static/index.html	This method uses an ensemble based system of 9 levels meant to be taught all at the same time. All resources can be found online.
Shear guitar method	Aaron Shear	Classical Standard Notation	Beginner	http://www.alfred.com/Products/The-Shearer-Method-Book-1-Classic-Guitar-Foundations--98-40784.aspx	

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Hal Leonard Guitar Method book 1	Will Schmid, Greg Koch	Pop/Rock/Folk Standard notation with tablature	Beginner	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=699010&subsiteid=7	Chords and strumming based. It teaches single notes but it is not the focus. Comes in a left handed edition.
Classical Guitar for Young People (and the Young at Heart)	Matthew Hinsley	Classical Standard Notation	Beginner	http://classicalguitarforyoungpeople.com/	To be used by a trained classical guitar teacher. Not a "self-guiding" book.
Mel Bay's Complete Method for Classical Guitar		Classical Standard Notation	Beginner / Intermediate Secondary School or Older Beginner	https://www.melbay.com/Products/93400MEB/complete-method-for-classic-guitar.aspx	A good layout for classroom use. Unison. Quickly gets to 2 voices and 8th notes. Supplemental material available.
New Dimensions in Classical Guitar for Children	Sonia Michelson Mel Bay Pub	Classical Standard Notation Lyrics	Elementary	https://www.melbay.com/Products/94537M/new-dimensions-in-classical-guitar-for-children.aspx	Sequencing like Kodály & other elem meth's. Classical technique w/ play songs and folk tunes as the repertoire.
Modern Folk Guitar	Harvey Reid Terry Kuhn	Folk Standard Notation Lead Sheet Tablature Lyrics	College Beginner	http://www.woodpecker.com/modernfolk.html	Scholarly peer reviewed by university-level guitar educators.

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Alfred's Basic Guitar Method Multiple Volumes and Supplementary Material	Morty Manus Ron Manus Alfred Pub	Blues, country, folk, jazz, rock, pop. Standard Notation Lyrics	Secondary/ Post-Secondary Beginner to...	https://www.alfred.com/alfreds-basic-guitar-method/b/	Begins with single note tunes, gradually introducing chords (ez, partial, complete) inside of the melodies
Alfred's Kid's Guitar Course Multiple Volumes and Supplementary Material	Ron Manus L. C. Harnsberger	Folk, blues, pop. Rhythmic Notation for (EZ) chords. Standard Notation for Notes. Lyrics.	Beginner Ages 5+	https://www.alfred.com/alfreds-kids-guitar-course-complete/p/00-45030/	Begins with 3-string 1-finger chords and progresses to single notes to blended melody-chord tunes.
Girl's Guitar Method	Tish Ciravolo Alfred Pub	Blues, country, folk, jazz, rock, pop. Standard Notation Tablature	Beginner Middle School+	https://www.alfred.com/girls-guitar-method-complete/p/00-27650/	A very good intermediary between Alfred Kids and Alfred Basic. Notes and tab throughout. Single note lines build to increasingly complete chords.
Guitar Sessions Multiple volumes, including solo books	Kevin Daley Kjos Pub	Multi-Style Standard Notation Unision	Beginner Middle School...	https://kjos.com/index.php/freetexts_earch/search/result/?keyword=guitar+sessions	Beginning band and orchestra teachers will find the layout of this book very familiar. Well-suited for non-classical beginning middle school guitar group.

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<p>Everybody's Guitar Method</p> <p>Multiple volumes including ensembles.</p>	<p>Philip Groeber David Hoge Rey Sanchez</p> <p>FJH Music</p>	<p>Multi-Style</p> <p>Standard Notation</p> <p>Unision</p>	<p>Beginner Middle School to...</p>	<p>http://www.fjhmusic.com/guitar/everybody.htm</p>	<p>Beginning band and orchestra teachers will find the layout of this book very familiar. Well-suited for non-classical beginning middle school guitar group.</p>
<p>The FJH Young Beginner Guitar Method</p> <p>Multiple volumes and resources available.</p>	<p>Philip Groeber David Hoge Leo Welch Rey Sanchez</p>	<p>Multi-Style</p> <p>Elementary number system leading to... Standard Notation</p> <p>Unision</p>	<p>Elementary Beginner to...</p>	<p>http://www.fjhmusic.com/guitar/ybg.htm</p>	<p>A note-based elementary alternative to Alfred Kid's chord-start.</p>
<p>Sukuki Guitar School</p> <p>Multiple volumes including teacher acc. books</p>		<p>Classical</p> <p>Standard Notation</p>	<p>Beginner to pre-college+</p>		<p>Best used by a teacher familiar with Suzuki philosophy & approach. Quickly moves to position II echoing violin family roots</p>
<p>Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method</p> <p>Multiple volumes and supplemental books available.</p>	<p>Mel Bay</p>	<p>Multi-style progressing to classical as the volumes progress.</p> <p>Standard notation</p> <p>Also slash, rhythm, and tablature</p>	<p>Beginning to pre-college+</p>	<p>https://www.melbay.com</p>	<p>Expanded editions have more material-sufficient quantity for class use. 7 volumes + supplemental material "complete" the method. See back cover for chart of series</p>

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The Hal Leonard Classical Guitar Method	Paul Henry Hal Leonard	Classical Standard	High School or older Beginner	https://www.halleonard.com/product/viewproduct.action?itemid=697376&menuid=3691&subsiteid=7	More suitable for solo lessons than class use. PIMA, two- and three-part music, articulation, free stroke, rest stroke