

# **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings Special / Beginning Strings 2019-2020**

**Instructor:** Ms. Kylie Ahern

**Email:** kahern@northlandprep.org

**Location:** Room 306 (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> periods)

## **Performances:**

Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Winter Concert: Beginning & Concert Strings, Beginning & Concert Band, Beginning Choir. The concert will take place at Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St. Admission: \$5. NPA students and faculty get in for free.

Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Spring Concert: Beginning & Concert Strings, Beginning & Concert Band, Beginning Choir. The concert will take place at Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St. Admission: \$5. NPA students and faculty get in for free.

## **Concert Attire for 2019-2020:**

All gentlemen will wear:

- plain white shirt (polo or dress shirt; no white t-shirts) with no tie
- black slacks (no black jeans!)
- black shoes (no sneakers!) and black socks

All ladies will wear:

- plain white shirt (polo, dress shirt, or blouse; no white t-shirts)
- black slacks (no leggings or jeggings, nothing that looks "painted on", no capri-length)
- black shoes with black hose, trouser socks, or socks

## **Other Deadlines and Dates:**

Tuesday, September 10	Parent Night. Room 306. Time: TBD
Wednesday, January 8 (tentative)	Payment deadline for MS Region Audition (\$20.00) Please make checks payable to "NPA"
Saturday, February 22 (tentative)	Middle School Region Auditions & Solo & Ensemble NOTE: These auditions will be at Prescott Mile High
May 1-2 (tentative)	Middle School Region Festival (\$20.00 participation fee; plus \$ for meals)

**Note:** The 2020 dates for Middle School Region are not confirmed yet. I am using last year's dates to estimate when these deadlines, auditions, and the festival will take place. If these dates change, I will send an email to the class.

## **What is the Middle School Region Honor Festival?:**

Middle School Region Honor Festival is an optional event for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The auditions involve a Saturday trip to Prescott, where you will play (by yourself) music you have prepared, in front of a very nice person who will judge your playing.

If you do well at the auditions, you will be invited to participate in the Northwest Arizona Middle School Region Honor Festival. This is around the first weekend in May. Sometimes it's in Flagstaff, sometimes other cities around the region. There are rehearsals on Friday and Saturday, and a concert on Saturday that's open to the public, so your family and friends can come watch.

I encourage all students to audition to participate in Middle School Region Honor Festival. It's a great learning experience for students and I remember always having a lot of fun attending these festivals with my friends from strings class when I was this age.

### **Grading:**

Grading for this year will be based on the same scale for all quarters. Only the content of the Playing Quizzes will change. These are the approximate values:

Concert preparation	30%	(includes playing quizzes)
Concert performance	35%	
Written final assignment	15%	
Other assignments	10%	
Attention/attitude	10%	

Quarter 1:	Playing Quizzes	(Essential Elements)
Quarter 2:	Playing Quizzes	(Essential Elements + concert pieces)
Quarter 3:	Playing Quizzes	(Essential Elements)
Quarter 4:	Playing Quizzes	(Essential Elements + concert pieces)

We will also do Karate Strings "belts" (Novice Level) to mark your progress this year!

Part of your responsibility as a student at NPA is to come to each class every day with all materials you need. In this class, that means your instrument (and accessories), music, and a pencil. There may be a penalty in students' grades for any class member who routinely "forgets" their instrument, music, or pencil!

Keep track of specifics, including all the dates shown above, on my web page, which you can find from the NPA homepage.

### **Classroom Rules:**

Students are not allowed to be on their phones during school hours at NPA. This will be the rule during all String classes, too. As musicians, we are expected to be fully present in all rehearsals, taking notes, listening to directions, and maintaining a level of professionalism as would be expected in a professional orchestra setting. If I find a student to be on their phone during class, I will consider he/she is not fully present in rehearsal and the phone will be taken away for the remaining class period. Repeated occurrences will result in detention.

In an attempt to keep our classroom piano in the best condition possible, please refrain from playing the piano unless you ask permission first. Thank you!

Always strive for excellence inside and outside the classroom.

I have the right to change any of the above information at any time during the year. If anything is changed, I will be sure to immediately inform students of the changes made.

Questions? Email me at: [kahern@northlandprep.org](mailto:kahern@northlandprep.org)