

Beginning Strings 2021-2022

Instructor: Ms. Kylie Ahern

Class Period: 5th

Voicemail: 928-214-8776, Ext. 306

Email: kahern@northlandprep.org

Location: Room 306

Online Google Classroom Information:

- Google Classroom class code: ylu6iqx
- Google Classroom will be used for turning in weekly practice logs. There will also be extra copies of sheet music, links to musical recordings, and reminders for upcoming assignments due posted in Google Classroom.

Concert Performances:

Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. [Note: Concerts are not 100% confirmed yet due to COVID. This is the tentative date we will plan for]

Winter Concert: Beginning, Concert, Symphonic & Chamber Strings. The concert will take place at Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Free for NPA faculty and students.

Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. [Note: Concerts are not 100% confirmed yet due to COVID. This is the tentative date we will plan for]

Spring Concert: Beginning, Concert, Symphonic & Chamber Strings. The concert will take place at Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St. Tickets: \$5 at the door. Free for NPA faculty and students.

Concert Attire for 2021-2022:

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

Course Description:

A sixth-grade introductory course on learning to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass) in an orchestra setting. Students will learn to read notes, understand different rhythms, follow a conductor, and learn to play together. No pre-requisite or previous playing experience required.

Late Work:

Please communicate with me through email or in person if there is a problem **before** the assignment is due. If there is clear communication about a problem (internet issue, illness in the family, etc.), I will be understanding and work with the student on a case-by-case basis and accept late work without penalty.

However, if there is no communication prior to the due date, I will assume the student forgot to complete the assignment on time and one point will be deducted each day the assignment is late.

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	30%	
Homework assignments	15%	
Attention/attitude	15%	
Final Exam	10%	

Homework will consist of Sight Reading Factory assignments, theory worksheets, listening assignments, and practice logs.

Materials Needed for Class:

- Essential Elements for Strings – Book 1 (provided by NPA)
- Instrument – In good working condition
- A pencil on the stand in class
- Shoulder rest or sponge (for violin and viola students)
- Rosin
- Tuner or tuning app (I recommend “Pano Tuner,” a free tuning app that is compatible with iOS and Android devices)

There may be a penalty in students’ grades for any student who routinely “forgets” their instrument, music, or pencil.

Instrument Rental Information:

String Instruments can be rented from:

- NPA – limited supply. Email me to check on availability: kahern@northlandprep.org
- Arizona Music Pro - <https://azmusicpro.com/band-and-backline-rentals>
- Milano’s Music - <https://milanomusic.com/rentals/>

Please be wary of ordering a \$50 violin/viola on Amazon. Instrument quality does matter when learning to play an instrument because a poorly made instrument will be difficult to learn on and will not sound good. Students will become frustrated with the sound and will not want to practice or continue learning.

Classroom Rules:

- All NPA rules apply within the Strings classroom
- No phones in class
- All string students will respect one another in and out of the classroom. The strings classroom will always be a safe and welcoming space to all NPA students
- Always strive for excellence

Please note: Ms. Ahern reserves the right to make changes as she sees fit throughout the school year.