

# **Beginning Strings 2020-2021**

**Instructor:** Ms. Kylie Ahern

**Class Period:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**Voicemail:** 928-214-8776, Ext. 306

**Email:** kahern@northlandprep.org

**Location:** Room 306

## **Online Google Classroom Information:**

- Email Ms. Ahern for the Google Classroom code.
- New weekly assignments will be posted during the rollout period on Thursdays between 8am-9am
- Weekly assignments will be due by 8pm on Tuesdays. There may be smaller assignments due throughout the week, which will be indicated on the rollout schedule.

Beginning Strings will meet every week on Zoom during the 5<sup>th</sup> period block (Tuesdays at 9am) **required**. Please check the roll-out schedule each week to see if we will meet on Fridays during the 5<sup>th</sup> period block (Fridays, 9am). Use the following link to access our Beginning String Zoom classes:

Zoom Links are available on the Syllabus posted in Google Classroom.

Online office hours during first quarter (August 17-October 9): Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2pm on Zoom or by appointment. Email for an appointment.

Zoom links are available on the Syllabus posted in Google Classroom.

## **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 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 5% of the points will be deducted each day the assignment is late. Late work that is turned in one week past the due date will not be accepted for credit.

## **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:

Playing Quizzes	35%
Homework	35%
Attention/Attitude/Posture	15%
Written Final Exam (or Final Project)	15%

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 (or close by at home)
- 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.

### **Concert Performances:**

Concert performances are always an integral and important part of all performing Fine Arts classes. During the 2020-2021 school year, it is necessary that we remain flexible as we navigate these unprecedented times. Safety needs to be our number one concern this year. As soon as we find a way to safely put on live performances again, we will. In the meantime, I will explore and research alternative online performance methods for our classes.

### **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 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.