

# **Beginning Strings 2022-2023**

**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:**

- Google Classroom class code: **swve2ji**
- 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:**

Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. - **Required**

This will be a shared concert between the NPA Band and String Classes

Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St.

Tickets: \$5 at the door - (Free for NPA faculty and students)

Spring Concert: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. - **Required**

This will be a Strings only concert

Trinity Heights Methodist Church at 3600 N Fourth St.

Tickets: \$5 at the door - (Free for NPA faculty and students)

## **Concert Attire for 2022-2023:**

All Beginning String students will wear a plain white shirt (polo, dress shirt, blouse, short-sleeve or long-sleeve. No plain white T-shirts please), black slacks, and black shoes.

## **Tentative Travel Dates:**

February 28-March 1, 2023 - Sixth and seventh grade string and band classes will travel for a possible overnight trip to the Phoenix or Tucson area to perform in a MS Concert Festival Trip. More information coming soon!

## **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:**

- “Podium etiquette” needs to be observed. We will go over in class.
- Cell phones will not be needed during class, unless you are using your tuning app
- String students will always be respectful of one another, as well as other NPA students and teachers, in and out of the classroom. I want the strings classroom to be a safe and welcoming space for all NPA students

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