

# **Concert Strings 2020-2021**

**Instructor:** Ms. Kylie Ahern

**Class Period:** 4<sup>th</sup>

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

**Email:** kahern@northlandprep.org

**Location:** Room 306

## **Online 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.

Concert Strings will meet every week on Zoom during the 4<sup>th</sup> period block (Tuesdays at 8am) **required**. Please check the roll-out schedule each week to see if we will meet on Fridays during the 4<sup>th</sup> period block (Fridays, 8am). Use the following link to access our Concert Strings 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 or by appointment. Email for an appointment.

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

## **Course Description:**

An intermediate string orchestra class that begins to introduce more advanced concepts to string students including tuning, learning vibrato, beginning to shift to different positions, and playing more difficult music. Students will continue to build their ensemble skills by continuing to play music together in an orchestra setting. Students will also be encouraged to audition for Middle School or High School regionals. Pre-Requisite: Beginning Strings, or prior experience playing a string instrument. Please email Ms. Ahern about experience before joining Concert Strings.

## **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 (From “Beginning Strings” last year. NPA will provide new books for students who did not take Beginning Strings). If you have lost your copy, you can purchase a new copy on Amazon for \$10)
- 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/>

### **Other Deadlines and Dates:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Friday, November 20   | Payment deadline to audition for High School Regional Festival [and/or HS Solo & Ensemble].<br>\$20.00 for each event, payable to "NPA"   |
| Friday, January 8     | Payment deadline to audition for Middle School Regional Festival [and/or MS Solo & Ensemble].<br>\$20.00 for each event, payable to "NPA" |
| Saturday, January 23  | High School Region auditions. Location: TBA   |
| Thurs-Sat, Feb. 18-20 | High School Region Festival. Location: TBA  |

Saturday, February 27      Middle School Region Auditions & Solo & Ensemble  
NOTE: These auditions are at Prescott Mile High MS

Friday, March 5              Payment deadline for MS Region Participation (\$20.00) +  
lodging/meals fees (~\$150)

Friday-Sat, May 7-8        Middle School Region Festival. Location: TBA

**Note:** Participation in MS or HS Regional Festival is optional. I would definitely recommend the experience to all string students. I always had a fun time participating in regional festivals growing up. I always enjoyed playing new music with different string students from all over the state.

**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.