

**Performing Arts Career Academy: Strings Syllabus  
Fraser High School  
2017-2018 Semesters 1 & 2**

Michael Perkins

[michael.perkins@fraserk12.org](mailto:michael.perkins@fraserk12.org)

**Course Description:** This is a beginning strings method class for students in the FPACA. Students must have some experience in a musical/performance setting. The fundamentals of good tone production, pitch, rhythm, intonation, bow technique, and musicality are stressed. Students will be playing in an orchestra setting with at least a beginner experience by the completion of their four years in the FPACA strings class.

**Concerts:** There will be at least two concerts. First year students will only partake in the spring concert. Second, third, and fourth year students will partake in the winter and spring concert. Additional concert could be added throughout the year.

**How to Be Successful in this Course:**

- 1.) Practice and work hard!
  
- 2.) The secret to success is communication. We need to keep the communication lines open between parent, student and teacher. With all of us working together and with good communication between us, we will have a positive educational experience.

**Materials:**

The most common item needed in a strings class is replacement strings for the students' instrument. You can find these at local instrumental repair stores such as Eastside Music.

**FHS Building Grading Scale:**

The following percentage ranges will be used:

	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	
94-100% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	59 and under = F
90-93% = A-	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	60-62% = D-	

**Your semester grade will also be calculated using a weighted system:**

**80%- Cumulative Grade (listed as 2nd Quarter Grade)**

**20%- Final Exam**

**Performing Arts Department-Specific Grading:**

The criteria are as follows: 1) daily participation, 2) playing test, 3) concerts/recitals, 4) written assignments, and 5) extra credit. Each criterion is worth an assigned point value, and grades are determined based on the total accumulation of points and successfully meeting the course competencies.

**Daily participation:** Positive classroom participation, cooperation, and attitude are key elements of productive rehearsals. Students should come prepared for class with a pencil, all music, their instrument, and a smiling face. **Students receive 25 points per class based on attendance, being prepared, participation, positive attitude, and cooperation.**

**Playing tests:** All playing tests are worth 30 points. These exams will determine the proficiency of individuals on scales and/or musical excerpts. Grades are given based upon the accuracy of the performance by the student. Missed playing exams can be made up after class or after school, upon the student's arrangement with the teacher.

**Concerts/recitals: CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!** The performances are the culmination of the student's work during the grading period or semester, and therefore, are considered to be a major test grade, such as a final exam. Attendance to and performance in all concerts and shows will earn the student 100 points. If a student misses a performance for any reason other than illness or family emergency, the student will receive a "zero" for the performance. The student is responsible for doing extra credit to earn recovery points for any missed performances.

**Absent Work Policy:**

All assignments must be turned in within a number of days equal to the length of the *excused* absence. Please see Blackboard to keep up with all missed assignments when you cannot be in class.

**Late Work Policy:**

All assignments must be turned in. Your grade will be reduced by 20% for each class period that the assignment is late.

## **Plagiarism/ Academic Integrity:**

Please review the following description of Academic Integrity from the FHS Student Code of Conduct:

**1.91 Academic Integrity. As a Fraser High School student, you are expected to present yourself, your knowledge, and your skills honestly. Cheating and plagiarizing are not acceptable and will result in a failing grade for the assignment as well as possible disciplinary action. In addition, students who assist those who cheat or plagiarize are subject to the same consequences as those who do.**

### **Examples of cheating:**

1. Sharing answers for class work or homework unless explicitly instructed by the teacher to do so.
2. Submitting work that is identical to another student's work when asked to only share ideas.
3. Copying someone else's class work, homework, or test answers.
4. Disclosing the content of a quiz or test.
5. Using electronic devices, such as cell phones, iPads, or calculators when not instructed to do so.
6. Using or attempting to use "cheat sheets," notes, information written on book covers, hands, etc. during a quiz or test.

### **Examples of plagiarism:**

1. Paraphrasing or rewording another's work without acknowledging the source.
2. Copying directly from a source (verbal, print, or electronic) without acknowledging the source with appropriate quotation marks or citations.
3. Borrowing, buying, or downloading a paper from the Internet and submitting it as your own.
4. Submitting another person's paper as your own.

## **FHS Competency Policy**

Students must pass all competencies with a minimum of 60% to earn credit in the course.

### **Remediation:**

If students do not pass the competency on their first try, they must remediate and reassess in order to pass.

### **Performing Arts Department Reassessment Policy:**

If students do not pass the competency on their first try, they must remediate and reassess in order to pass.

### **Course Competency Statements:**

Students will apply skills and knowledge to perform in the arts. (Standard #1)

Students will apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts. (Standard #2)

Students will analyze, describe, and evaluate works of art. (Standard #3)

### **ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM INFORMATION:**

#### **Classroom Expectations**

- Be on Time—be in the classroom at the bell; be in your assigned seat with your instrument within 5 minutes of the bell
- Be Prepared—always have your instrument, accessories, music, folder, and a pencil
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Supportive of the Learning Process
- Leave all electronics (phones, iPods, iPads, Kindles, laptops, hand-held games) off and in book bag.
- WATER IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE BEVERAGE OR SNACK ALLOWED DURING CLASS

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is **required at every performance and rehearsal**. Every student must tell the teacher if they can not attend that day. The exceptions are:

1. **School-related function that is cleared or approved in advance.** It is the student's responsibility to inform **all** parties involved when excused absences are requested. Those involved in athletic activities are **not** excused from a rehearsal or performance unless we are **notified and approve** of the absence, **nor** will those students always be excused from their class commitment.
2. Death in the family or involvement in wedding. A written advance notice of participation in a wedding must be provided to the band director.
3. Illness or surgery. **If you are ill at the time of a performance, it is your responsibility to call or email us at school.**
4. Other considerations will be on an individual basis.

**Absences without prior notification will be considered unexcused.**

Each unexcused absence from a performance and/or rehearsal will result in the lowering of the student's grade.

### **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsal time is at a premium. Therefore, certain understandings must be had by all to ensure effective rehearsals.

### **ATHLETICS**

We will gladly work with students in resolving conflicts with practices and games (meets), when done in **advance**. The calendar of performances and activities for the department is printed early in the year. It is the **student's** responsibility to work out all conflicts with us and with coaches. Please remember that the academy is an **academic class** for which you receive credit.

### **Teacher Contact Information:**

Michael Perkins

[Michael.perkins@fraserk12.org](mailto:Michael.perkins@fraserk12.org)

[www.fpaca.weebly.com](http://www.fpaca.weebly.com)