



Suzuki Music Columbus - Student Handbook

revised August 2025

This handbook outlines the program offerings, policies, and guidelines for Suzuki Music Columbus students.

Suzuki Music Columbus *"Every Child deserves to know that there is beauty in the world" - Isaac Stern*

A nonprofit organization offering children of all ages programs of study in violin, viola and cello, and many performing opportunities including the Suzuki Music Columbus Tour Group. We offer a Summer Suzuki Institute and an active teacher-training program, including the Suzuki Teacher Training Internship program. Administrative offices, classes and lessons are located at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1555 S. James Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43209. Classes and lessons are also offered at the North location at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 7481 S Old State Rd, Lewis Center OH 43035

Our Mission

We aspire to create a learning community, which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit. We are dedicated to furthering the philosophical and educational ideals of Shinichi Suzuki.

Contact

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Suzuki Music Columbus, Inc. is a non-profit 501c(3) public charity.

Non-discrimination Policy

Suzuki Music Columbus, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

SMC Program

Children as young as 3 years old join a program of study on violin, viola or cello. Following Shin'ichi Suzuki's philosophy of talent education we believe every child can learn and talent can be developed in every child if one creates the right environment.

Children in our Suzuki program will learn a common repertoire of songs in the Suzuki Method books. We teach children music in the way that they learn language, so our language of music will use this vocabulary of the Suzuki songs. We play the songs every day and fluency develops. Listening to high quality recordings of the songs creates the language-filled environment and further develops ears and musical sensitivity. We know that children listen to language spoken every day, learn to speak fluently, and then develop literacy and learn to read. In the language of music, the Suzuki student listens to music every day, becomes musically and technically fluent on the instrument, and then develops music literacy and learns to read music.

The common repertoire means that Suzuki students can easily perform songs together because in a sense they speak the same musical language. In the Suzuki Grand Concert older students begin the concert with an upper level song. Then we "play down" through the repertoire from most advanced to least advanced. Children come to the stage when we reach a song they know. More and more children are added to the stage until the concert concludes with all the children performing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star variations. All over the world Suzuki children can meet and play music together and even if they speak different languages they can share the language of music.

The Suzuki Music Columbus program of study has five important parts:

1. **Listening** – To learn the language of music, students listen to recordings of Suzuki repertoire every day. The high quality model provides a basis for developing artistry, beauty and creativity. Further listening to classical recordings and attending live concerts enhances ear training and speeds ability development.
2. **Weekly private lesson** – parent and child attend together to work with the teacher. Beginners have 15 or 30-minute lessons, Book 3 and up students have 45-minute lessons. Advanced students have 60-minute lessons.
3. **Home Practice** – “With love, much can be accomplished” Daily practice guided by the parent is expected and required. In the beginning the daily practice will be 15-20 minutes and entirely guided by the parent. As the student progresses the daily practice time will increase and the student learns to use good practice skills. During this development the parent’s role in home practice gradually changes from active to passive. The parent is still overseeing practice sessions, but the child is starting to make independent good choices and is productive and organized. An advanced student may need to practice several hours per day, and the advanced Suzuki parent role is to be sure they complete assignments, and to offer guidance if needed.
4. **Tuesday Suzuki Group Classes/Ensembles** – a peer community and friendships with other Suzuki families develops through our Tuesday afternoon classes. All students and teachers gather for classes to reinforce private lesson and home study. The recital time fosters a positive performance environment and a regular concert experience. The ensembles further develop music literacy and leadership through group performance.
5. **Performance** – weekly solo recitals, group concerts, Grand Concerts, community performances, and tour group, provide opportunities for performance. As a regular part of the Suzuki program, student musicians become comfortable performers as well as supportive and attentive audience members.

Private Lessons

All students will have a 15, 30, 45 or 60-minute weekly lesson. These weekly lessons are scheduled with the private teacher at the beginning of the year and continue for the year. Tuition fees are paid in advance of lessons and classes. Teacher and Student commit to a specific regular weekly lesson time for the full school year. There is no guarantee that an alternate time can be found should your schedule change mid-year.

The Lesson:

1. Be prepared - Come ready to learn with all of your books and instrument. Arrive a few minutes early and unpack your instrument, tune and warm-up. Talk with your child about what you practiced the preceding week.
2. Take notes - Bring a notebook to organize your lesson assignments. Maybe use your phone to take photos or videos to help at home.
3. Communicate - If you have questions for the teacher, please ask at the beginning of the lesson so that the teacher can address the issue in that lesson.
4. Listen quietly - "One teacher please". It is important to let your child answer for him or herself and to interact with the teacher.

At home:

1. Practice every day - follow through on practice assignments
2. Listen - play the Suzuki recording every day. Create the music-filled home environment with Suzuki and other recordings of classical music. Attend concerts.
3. Work together - Suzuki home practice is a collaborative effort between Parent and child. Your teacher will give assignments and provide guidance and direction.
4. Review all of your pieces to develop ability and establish fluency on the instrument.

Practice time:

Practice time varies with age and level and commitment. Home practice is a part of your music study, so take the time to schedule your daily home practice and make it a priority. Here are the home practice expectations for successful study:

1. Pre-twinkle, book 1 students should practice 15 - 30 minutes, 6 days a week.
2. Book 2-3 students should practice 30-45 minutes, 6 days a week.
3. Book 4-5 students should practice 45-60 minutes, 6 days a week.
4. Book 6 and up students should practice 60-120 minutes, 6 days a week.
5. Advanced students – 2 to 3 hours, 6 days a week.

These times do not include listening, classes, lessons or performances.

Make-up Policy:

Due to the complexities of scheduling a full studio, and to encourage regular attendance that is the foundation for successful music study, the following make-up policy is in place:

There are no make-ups or credits for lessons missed by the student. All lessons missed by a teacher will be made-up or a credit applied. There are no credits or make-ups for missed or cancelled group classes. Group classes and events may be cancelled for weather emergencies or issues with facilities that would make it difficult or unsafe to hold classes.

Annual Tuition:

Tuition is billed monthly by email and is based on an Annual Tuition. Tuition fees are based on the total number of weeks that your teacher is available for lessons for the next year. Fees are based on the teaching calendar set by each faculty member. If your teacher includes summer study the Annual Tuition is divided by 12 to determine the monthly amount. If your teacher does not offer summer study, the Annual Tuition is divided by 9 to determine the monthly amount, and there will be no May 20, June 20 or July 20 billing. Please note that the tuition amounts and the due dates do not necessarily line up with the lesson calendar, but are averaged over the year. The number of lessons offered in a given month will vary during the year.

Suzuki Program Fee:

In the Suzuki method, group activities are a vital part of the Suzuki process. To be able to provide such group activities for the program, all SMC students are assessed program fee billed at \$41 each month (12 times a year). SMC is a special program that offers Suzuki study, so the program fee is required of all students, regardless of attendance or participation at group activities.

Winter weather policy:

If there is a weather emergency that requires cancellation of group classes a notification will be sent by email and/or text message. If you have any questions just email dlocke@suzukimusiccolumbus.org or voice/text Doug 614.216.1343, or your teacher. This policy only applies to group classes and events. If private studio lessons are cancelled your teacher will notify you by email and/or text message.

Withdraw:

We hope music becomes a life-long passion for our students, but should you wish to withdraw from Suzuki Music Columbus you may do so anytime without financial penalty. We do ask for one-month notice if possible. Annual tuition is pro-rated and you are charged only for the lessons offered to the date you withdrew.

New students:

New students may join the program anytime. Annual tuition is pro-rated and adjusted for students that join mid-year. The fee adjustment depends on the date of the first lesson.

Adjustments:

Credits, determined by your teacher, may be applied to your SMC account if your teacher is not able to fulfill the number of weeks offered in the Annual Tuition. Charges may be added to your account if additional lessons are scheduled above the number of weeks offered in the Annual Tuition.

There are no make-ups or credits for lessons missed by the student. All lessons missed by a teacher will be made-up or a credit applied. There are no credits or make-ups for missed or cancelled group classes.

Billing Policies:

SMC depends on tuition revenue to operate so your prompt payment is appreciated. Should your payments not be prompt the following policies are in place:

The monthly invoice is sent by email on the 20th of the month with payment due in 10 days.

After 15 days unpaid - a \$25 late fee is assessed.

After 30 days unpaid - a suspension letter is sent and teacher notified.

After 45 days unpaid - the student is suspended from all SMC lessons, classes and activities.

Full payment of tuition, late fees as well as a \$25 reinstatement fee is required to resume SMC lessons, classes and activities. A second suspension in one calendar year may result in termination.

SMC Tuesday Group Classes & SMC Ensembles - Suzuki Music Columbus Tuesday Group Classes

All students are expected to attend weekly group classes, which include - recital, technique, musicianship, and ensembles. Group classes are an integral part of Suzuki philosophy and vital to your child's success. Group classes reinforce the practice at home, the study in the private lessons, as well as developing a community of young musicians and friends. Tuesday Group Classes and Ensembles are part of a comprehensive program of study and are only available to registered Suzuki Music Columbus students. There is no "group only" option, all SMC students participate in a group class and a private lesson. There is no "private lessons only" option either.

1. The recital: Each week there is a 30-minute recital time. This is an opportunity for your child to either perform or listen to pieces that they will soon play. It is also a time that the SMC community of students, faculty and parents are together, so we share news and announcements are made.
2. The technique class: This class is divided by repertoire level. Students will work on Suzuki repertoire, as well as other activities that pertain to the level of study. The level varies so your child may be the most advanced or least advanced child in the class. Since everyone progresses at a different rate their place in the class will change. It is important to follow through in home practice on assignments that are given during class.
3. Ensembles: Antonio Ensemble, Vivaldi Ensemble, and Tour Group (descriptions below)

Suzuki Music Columbus Antonio Ensemble

The Vivaldi Ensemble is comprised of Suzuki violin and cello students, mid book 4 and up. The Vivaldi Ensemble meets at the NORTH branch on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 to rehearse and prepare for performance Suzuki repertoire and ensemble music of a variety of styles. The group learns how to play in an ensemble working on rehearsal techniques, listening, and leading. The Vivaldi Ensemble members will have some additional time commitments required for home practice, and public performances.

Pre-requisites to participate in Suzuki Music Columbus Antonio Ensemble:

1. Completion of Suzuki Volume 3 and working in Volume 4, 5 and up. (or equivalent repertoire)
2. Appropriate music reading ability. Completion of Doflein Volume 1 or equivalent work.
3. Demonstrated consistent review of Suzuki Volumes 1-3 repertoire
4. Technical ability - G, A and B flat two Octave Scales and arpeggios. (Barbara Barber scale book)
5. Assessment and Recommendation by Studio Teacher and Artistic Directors

Expectations for Vivaldi Ensemble:

Students who consistently fail to meet the expectations for the Vivaldi Ensemble will be asked to stop participation.

1. Home Practice - expected to practice every day, with a minimum of 45 minutes per day, six days.
2. Attendance at Tuesday rehearsals - expected to attend all rehearsals.
3. Performance - expected to participate in performances by the Vivaldi Ensemble
4. Community Service - expected to participate in public concerts and gigs.
5. Preparation of music - Dedicated regular home practice and preparation of Vivaldi Ensemble music. Come to rehearsal with the music prepared to the best of your ability.

Suzuki Music Columbus Vivaldi Ensemble

The Vivaldi Ensemble is comprised of Suzuki violin and cello students, mid book 4 and up. The Vivaldi Ensemble meets at James Road location on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 to rehearse and prepare for performance Suzuki repertoire and ensemble music of a variety of styles. The group learns how to play in an ensemble working on rehearsal techniques, listening, and leading. The Vivaldi Ensemble members will have some additional time commitments required for home practice, and public performances.

Pre-requisites to participate in Suzuki Music Columbus Vivaldi Ensemble:

6. Completion of Suzuki Volume 3 and working in Volume 4, 5 and up. (or equivalent repertoire)
7. Appropriate music reading ability. Completion of Doflein Volume 1 or equivalent work.
8. Demonstrated consistent review of Suzuki Volumes 1-3 repertoire
9. Technical ability - G, A and B flat two Octave Scales and arpeggios. (Barbara Barber scale book)
10. Assessment and Recommendation by Studio Teacher and Artistic Directors

Expectations for Vivaldi Ensemble:

Students who consistently fail to meet the expectations for the Vivaldi Ensemble will be asked to stop participation.

6. Home Practice - expected to practice every day, with a minimum of 45 minutes per day, six days.
7. Attendance at Tuesday rehearsals - expected to attend all rehearsals.
8. Performance - expected to participate in performances by the Vivaldi Ensemble
9. Community Service - expected to participate in public concerts and gigs.
10. Preparation of music - Dedicated regular home practice and preparation of Vivaldi Ensemble music. Come to rehearsal with the music prepared to the best of your ability.

Suzuki Music Columbus Tour Group

The Tour Group is comprised of the most serious, dedicated, and advanced violin students, who are the leaders in the Suzuki program. The Tour Group meets at the James Road location on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 to prepare for performance advanced Suzuki repertoire and advanced ensemble music of a variety of styles. The Tour Group members will have some additional time commitments required for home practice, rehearsals, retreats, tours and public performances. The Tour Group presents a musical program and mounts regular concert tours, has many local performances, community service projects, and recording. SMC Tour Group students represent the ideals of Shin'ichi Suzuki, Suzuki Music Columbus, the Suzuki Method and what is possible for children in the Suzuki method to achieve.

Pre-requisites to participate in Suzuki Music Columbus Tour Group

1. Age 10 and older.
2. Completion of Suzuki Volume 5 and working in Volume 6. (or equivalent repertoire)
3. Reliable and strong music reading ability. Completion of Doflein Volume 2 (or equivalent work)
4. Demonstrated consistent review and comfort playing Suzuki Volumes 1-4 repertoire from memory.
5. Technical ability - all two Octave Scales & arpeggios and three octave scales. (Barbara Barber scale book).
6. Recommendation by Studio Teacher
7. Completion of an Assessment Interview with Artistic directors to consist of the following:
 - Assessment of Performance - Veracini Gigue and Bach double (both memorized)
 - Assessment of Suzuki review of repertoire in books 1-4 (all must be memorized)
 - Assessment of Technique - two and three octave Scales & arpeggios (Barbara Barber scale book)
 - Assessment of music reading ability – sight-read several pieces of music.

Parent-Teacher-Student interview discussing readiness and commitment to participate.

Expectations for Suzuki Music Columbus Tour Group

1. Home Practice - expected to practice every day, with a minimum of 60 to 90 minutes per day, six days a week.
2. Attendance at Tuesday rehearsals - expected to attend all Tour Group rehearsals.
3. Performance - expected to participate in Tour Group performances.
4. Community Service - expected to participate in most of the public performances and give back to the younger students through service, positive leadership, and mentoring.
5. Role model - Through leadership foster a non-competitive environment where everyone strives for the best musical outcomes. Maintain a positive attitude and demonstrate good work ethic that is a model for other students. Be solid and memorized on all book 1-4 Suzuki review songs. Have model technique, proper posture and bow hold. Perform regularly on Tuesday solo recitals and be a supportive audience member.
6. Preparation of music - Dedicated regular home practice and preparation of Tour Group repertoire. Complete assignments and come to rehearsal with the music prepared to the best of your ability.
7. Touring - Opportunity to participate in tours is encouraged, but not required.
8. Retreats - Participation in Retreats is expected, but not required. Students not able to participate in the retreat may be asked to submit a practice log of home practice showing comparable hours of home practice on the repertoire to make up for rehearsal time missed at the retreat.
9. Annual commitment - due to musical reasons, such as balance of parts and programming decisions, students are asked to make the commitment in August for the season (August - June).

A note about Touring - The friendship tours are optional and are NOT required. Every effort is made to help students meet the financial and musical obligations as well as helping to negotiate schedule conflicts so that students who wish to participate may do so. Student members who decide not to participate in the tour are still full active members of the group and enjoy participating in all of the local concerts and events. However, several weeks prior to the tour there may be several "tour only" rehearsals and performances for the purpose of preparing the staging and balance for the students participating in the tour concerts.

Tour Group Absence Policy:

Tour Group students are expected and required to attend all scheduled rehearsals. An absence at a rehearsal by one student dramatically impacts the overall quality of the group.

1. It is anticipated that there will be times due to illness, or other unavoidable school or family conflicts, that will require students to miss rehearsal. Therefore, students are allowed a maximum of four rehearsal absences for the year. It is important to communicate in advance if you will be absent from rehearsal and keep in mind that all absences are counted towards the four allowed absences, regardless of the reason for the absence.
2. In the event of an absence the student completes an absence form that documents the date and reason for the absence, completion of tour group repertoire home practice time equal to two times the rehearsal time missed. The form is verified and signed by a parent and submitted to the Artistic Director within two weeks of the absence so that the student may continue participation.
3. A partial absence (arriving late or leaving early) does require completion of an absence form with the full practice requirement as if missing the full rehearsal. Three partial absences will count as one full absence.

4. A student who exceeds the maximum allowed absences will be suspended from Tour Group for the remainder of the season.
5. Performances - Students are expected to attend performances, but not required to participate. However, so that we may plan and prepare for our performances, students are required to confirm with the director as soon as possible that they will miss a scheduled performance. Last minute notification and no-shows are very disruptive to the quality of performances and disrespectful to the other musicians, and will not be tolerated.

Community Service

Tour Group members are expected to be leaders and to give back to the younger students and support the Suzuki program by completing community service. Some examples of Community Service include performing for a Suzuki "Gig", assisting a group class, serving as a practice buddy to a younger child, leading a Community Service concert, serving as Tour Group stage manager, helping with the snack time, etc...

Failure to meet expectations

Students who fail to meet the expectations for the Tour Group will be asked to stop participation. An opportunity to correct the issues and re-join the group can be discussed with the director.

1. Excessive Student Absences - Excessive absences weaken the overall quality of musical performance and pedagogical goals of the group. A student who is absent from Tour Group rehearsal more than four times in the season will be suspended for the remainder of the school year.
2. Unprepared Student - A consistently unprepared student weakens the overall performance of the group and will be suspended for the remainder of the school year.
3. Failure to participate - Consistent failure to participate in Tour Group activities - A student that consistently fails to participate in public performances, tours, retreats and other activities is not committed to the experience and weakens the overall success of the group. It is recognized that schedules are complex and it is unavoidable that students will have to miss some of the events. However, it is possible with proper planning, commitment, and balance of scheduling that students can plan schedules to participate in most of the activities.

Reinstatement - A suspended student may elect to complete a reinstatement interview with the Artistic Director to demonstrate that they are able to continue. The reinstatement interview will involve discussion about future commitment and the student demonstrating their ability to play the Tour Group music competently, which involves presenting a live and/or video performance evaluation.

Concerts and Events

Grand Concerts:

Each year we have two Grand Concerts one in December, and one in May at Capital University, Mees Auditorium. We do them in a traditional play down style, starting with the most advanced pieces and ending with twinkle. All students no matter their level are expected to attend these concerts. Each concert is followed with a cookie reception.

Ensemble Concerts:

Ensemble concert schedule will vary from year to year. Typically there will be one ensemble concert a year at Mozarts Café in Clintonville. The advanced ensembles will perform. All students are expected to attend.

Community Concerts:

SMC students are invited to play at a variety of events including but not limited to festivals, office parties, private parties, demonstrations, retirement homes etc... You should plan on participating in at least some of these. Some of the performing ensembles will have their own schedule of concerts so please refer to the expectations of that ensemble.

Concert Dress:

Formal Concerts:	All Black, or Black & White - dress shirt or blouse, black pants or skirt, black dress shoes.
Informal Concerts:	Suzuki Music Columbus logo T-shirt
Solo Recitals:	Nice outfit of your choice, no skirts above the knee
Ensembles:	Ensembles may have a special uniform for performances and touring

Program Questions and Concerns

You should feel free to talk any of the teachers or executive/artistic directors about any question or concerns that may arise during your years of study with Suzuki Music Columbus. We are all here to help your child reach their fullest potential.

1. You should talk to your private teacher first. Especially if it is about a private lesson issue, group class placement, scheduling conflicts, learning issues, peer pressures etc... They are more closely acquainted with you and your child and will be best able to help.
2. You may talk to your group class teacher if you have concerns about your child's participation in that class, but be sure to speak with your private teacher as well.

3. You may talk with the executive/ artistic directors about any issue, but particularly if you have general questions or concerts, billing issues, discipline or safety concerns, participation questions.
4. Open communication is most important.

Behavior

SMC is a family program with lots of children, and it is expected that SMC students will behave appropriately at all times, especially in lessons and classes, just as expected in any school learning environment. Walk, don't run; use "inside voices", and respect one another. Any student consistently unable to behave appropriately will be asked to stop participation in the program. It is expected that children under the age of 10 will be accompanied by a parent or guardian when attending activities and classes.

Listening:

Children learn words after hearing them spoken hundreds of times by others. Listening to music every day is important, especially listening to pieces in the Suzuki repertoire so the child knows them immediately. You are going to create an environment full of the language of music for your child. The Suzuki repertoire is recorded, so you may start listening right away. Fill your child's world with music. Attend live concerts, explore recordings online, check out youtube for string performances, go to the symphony, just listen constantly to lots of genres and styles of music, but especially music for your child's instrument.

Studio lesson schedules:

Most children go to school, so private Suzuki lessons are typically scheduled Monday through Fridays in the "after school" times (3:00 – 8:00). Weekends pose too many challenges to achieve regular attendance, so Saturday or Sunday lessons are not offered. Children need to get to bed at a reasonable time on school nights, so most teachers finish teaching by 8:00 pm. We like to schedule morning and early afternoon lessons for home-school and pre-school students whenever possible. Regular attendance is essential for success. You will want to be careful with your other scheduled commitments. Once a teacher's lesson schedule is established it is difficult and often impossible to change your regular lesson time without impacting several other families.

Tuesday group class schedules:

All students are required to participate in the Tuesday afternoon group class program. This will be the peer group for your child's musical life. This peer group will provide support and encouragement, friendship and inspiration. It is essential for your child's success. The Regular Group Class schedule:

James Road Location

4:15 Solo recital rehearsal (if performing that day)
 5:00 – 5:30 Recital time
 5:30 – 5:45 Break (snacks available)
 5:45 - 6:15 PreTwinkle Class
 5:45 – 6:30 Book 1-4 Classes
 5:45 - 7:15 Tour Group & Vivaldi Ensemble (book 4 and up)

North Campus Location

4:45 – 5:30 Suzuki Technique Classes (books 1-3)
 5:30 – 5:45 Recital Time
 5:45 – 7:15 Antonio Ensemble

Home practice:

It is not necessary for you to be a musician to be a successful Suzuki parent. Growing up, you did homework, prepared book reports and studied for tests in school. Practicing a musical instrument is like studying for school, a skill that requires daily attention, no cramming! Your teachers will have many ideas, games, charts and strategies to help you guide productive home practice sessions. A Suzuki parent mostly organizes and makes sure assignments are done correctly. Your child will likely understand the musical aspects better than you do, but you will be much better at organization. Your teacher will be sure you understand all the musical and technical aspects of the assignments. It is the team of child; parent, and teacher that makes everything work.

Here describes some of the daily practice tasks you will be guiding at home:

Warmup	A song, scale, or exercise to awaken the ear and body for playing the instrument.
Working piece	The careful repetitive study to learn a new piece of music.
Polishing piece	The song you have learned, but are still perfecting for tempo, expression and comfort.
Review piece	All the Suzuki songs you have learned. You will play all of the songs everyday.
Reading	Exercises and reading assignments following a sequence of study to develop literacy.
Technique	Exercises and Scales to further develop ability.
Listening	The daily listening to recordings of Suzuki repertoire and other music.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What age can we begin studies in Suzuki Music Columbus?

We are teaching music in the way that children learn language, so an early start is important. Typically a new beginner is aged 3 – 10, although older beginners have had success, as well as adult students.

My child already plays the instrument, can he join the program?

If your child has studied using the Suzuki method it should be easy to assimilate them into the program. An older traditional student may have social issues joining the program as they would start at the beginning of the Suzuki repertoire and, at least for the first few months, would be in a class with children much younger. A motivated student, that has had private instruction and demonstrates good playing skills, should be able to catch-up with the repertoire. They will have success, although they may have some challenges with the Suzuki style of learning with the emphasis on rote learning, memorization.

How much does it cost to study in the program?

There is an annual tuition, billed monthly. Tuition for a 30-minute lesson with the monthly program fee is approximately \$150 per month. A rental instrument will be approximately \$20 per month for a violin, \$40 per month for a cello.

What is the time commitment?

Parent and Child are a team studying Suzuki music together. The team is expected to attend the private lesson and practice at home every day. This is the team that learned to speak a language together once already – so we can't break up the team!

A new beginner will have a weekly 15 or 30-minute private lesson, will attend the Tuesday afternoon group classes from 4:30 – 5:45, and will be expected to practice every day with active parent guidance for approximately 15 to 30 minutes.

An older student will have a weekly 45 minute private lesson, and will attend the Tuesday afternoon group classes from 4:30 – 5:45, and will be expected to practice every day with passive parent guidance for approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

An advanced student will have a weekly 60 minute lesson and will attend the Tuesday afternoon group classes from 5:15 to 7:30 as a member of the Antonio Ensemble, Vivaldi Ensemble, or Suzuki Tour Group, and will be expected to practice every day independently for approximately 60 to 90 minutes. The Suzuki Tour Group has additional local performing opportunities, a concert tour every 2-3 years, local touring on off years, and additional rehearsals and retreats.

In the very beginning parents should try to attend group classes too. But once the child becomes comfortable and has made some friends it is fine for the child to come with another family member or daycare provider. Sometimes Suzuki families that live near to each other will carpool and take turns taking the kids to group.

The pace of study is determined by the amount of home practice. Students who practice more develop faster as musicians. But most important is to practice every day. It is the momentum of the everyday practice that drives ability development.

When are lessons scheduled?

Most children go to school, so private Suzuki lessons are typically scheduled Monday through Fridays in the “after school” times (3:00 – 8:00). Weekends pose too many challenges to achieve regular attendance, so no Saturday or Sunday lessons are offered. Children need to get to bed at a reasonable time on school nights, so most teachers finish teaching by 8:00 pm. We like to schedule morning and early afternoon lessons for home- school and pre-school students whenever possible. Regular attendance is essential for success. You will want to be careful with your other scheduled commitments. Once a teacher’s lesson schedule is established it is difficult and often impossible to change your regular lesson time without impacting several other families.

Where do we get an instrument? And how much do instruments cost?

Please do not rent or purchase an instrument until we have placed you with a teacher and be properly sized. There many places that sell violins, but there is a good local violin shop that we recommend for your instrument needs. The shop offers fair prices for good quality, properly set-up, small sized instrument outfits with 100% trade-in when you change sizes. Since instruments come in 1/32, 1/16, 1/10, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 and full sizes that is important. You can “rent to own” or purchase the instrument. Contact the shops for details on prices and policies.

The Loft Violin Shop
4604 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43214
Email: violins@theloftviolinshop.com
614-267-7221 Toll Free: 800-728-9440

A cheap violin purchased on the internet may look like a deal, but it will not be set up properly and is basically a toy. It can cost hundreds of dollars to correct the problems, and it will not be acceptable for study in our program.

Does the parent need an instrument too?

No, you can share with your child. Your organizational skills are mostly what you will be doing at home to guide the practice sessions. Some parents have purchased a violin and had a lot of fun learning too, but it is not required.

I am not a musician, how will I be a home practice partner?

It is not necessary for you to be a musician to be a successful Suzuki parent. Growing up, you did homework, prepared book reports and studied for tests in school. Practicing a musical instrument is like studying for school. Your teachers will have many ideas, games, charts and strategies to help you guide productive home practice sessions. A Suzuki parent mostly organizes and makes sure assignments are done correctly. Your child will likely understand the musical aspects better than you do, but you will be much better at organization. Your teacher will be sure you understand all the musical and technical aspects of the assignments. It is a team of child; parent and teacher that makes everything work.

Can we just do the private lessons and skip the Tuesday group classes?

All students are required to participate in the Tuesday afternoon group class program. This will be the peer group for your child's musical life. This peer group will provide support and encouragement, friendship and inspiration. It is essential for your child's success. If you are just looking for some private lessons, our comprehensive program is not right for your family.

When do the students learn to read music?

We know that children learn to speak before learning to read. In the language of music, the Suzuki student becomes musically and technically fluent on the instrument, and then learns to read music. A student of 3 years old may study three years before note-reading is introduced. An older beginner may start reading sooner. But, all students are fluent readers after several years of study in the program.