



St. Peters JK



## Suzuki “Pre-twinkle” Violin Program 2018 – 2019

Dear Parents:

The Suzuki “Pre-twinkle” Violin Program is designed to provide children the opportunity to start Suzuki Violin lessons during their Academic Year while here at St. Peters JK. This method begins children at the earliest age of 3-5 years. During these early years of brain development young children can deepen and enhance brain neurons and activity while learning the skills to play violin, along with learning musical pitches and rhythms. Science has determined that children who study early music education have a more successful academic experience in all their later years of education. St. Peters support this theory and offers this enrichment program to the children during their academic day. The violin instrument will be provided by the school to each child when they are ready and can use it throughout the year. The instrument will returned at the end of the school term.

### **What exactly is Suzuki Violin?**

The Suzuki Violin Method is an educational approach developed by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki in Japan (1898-1998). It is often referred to as Talent Education. This approach seeks to foster instrumental playing skills in young children in the same way they learn to speak – through imitation and repetition, in a positive, nurturing environment with the help of the mother and the father. Early education in any single area will create fine ability if nurtured by parents by the very youngest of children. According to Dr. Suzuki, every child has talent and can learn to play the violin using this approach. His goal was not to produce prodigies, but to develop in children an appreciation of music, self, and others. It is our intention through the Suzuki “Pre-Twinkle” Violin Program at St. Peters, that we nurture the child’s love of music through positive and fun classes.

### **Suzuki “Pre-twinkle” Program**

The Suzuki “Pre-twinkle” Program is designed for children of the preschool age. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Each child will be in a small group class for a 30 minute lesson every week. The parent is required to come to the first lesson. This is to make sure that the parent knows what to do to help their child practice. Parents are welcome to come to as many lessons as they can! The children will be given a box violin for the first three/four months of lessons. With this box violin the children will learn the basic posture and care for a real violin. Posture is a vital part of playing violin. We will also begin working on specific rhythm patterns that the children will ultimately learn how to play with their violin. We take these steps slowly so that it is understood by both parent and child. The box violin is included in the fee.

### **What are my responsibilities as a parent?**

Each parent should attend lessons when possible. If you cannot attend, the children will be given an instructional sheet on what they did that day so that the parent can help with practicing. Practicing should be done daily. Purchase Suzuki Violin CD Vol. 1. Most local music stores have these or you can find it online. The parent is responsible for making sure that the child is listening to the recordings every day. The parents must learn to play the instrument a little themselves in class so that they can practice with the child. Overtime, these activities together will grow into cherished moments with your child. This establishes the successful parent-child team. This is one of the best parts! Read “Nurtured By Love” by Shinichi Suzuki. It can be purchased at Barnes and Nobles.

## How do we fit in with the other “Pre-Twinkle” programs?

Greenville, NC is actually one of the largest Suzuki Communities on the east coast. We contribute that to Mrs. Joanne Bath. Mrs. Bath studied under Dr. Suzuki in Japan in the early 1960’s. She came back to Greenville and nurtured the Suzuki Approach to local children of all ages. She continues to teach children and is the Hardy Distinguished Professor of Suzuki Pedagogy at East Carolina University. The Greenville Suzuki Association (GSA) offers several group lessons, performance opportunities and lots of learning for children and parents! This brings together children from all over Eastern North Carolina. Some of the best friendships will be made during these activities.

## What do we do after the “Pre-twinkle” year?

After the first year of JK “Pre-Twinkle” your child will move to a local private teacher who will teach lessons at a time that is convenient for the parent and child after school. I will provide you with a list of teachers. We have SO many wonderful teachers here in Greenville. We are so blessed!

## When and how do I register?

You must register during the orientation period. Enrollment is limited, so parents are encouraged to apply as early as possible. The fee for classes is \$360 for first semester (Sept. – Dec.) and \$450 for second semester (Jan –May). Each semester ends with a recital, date and time, TBA.

## About Mrs. Leigh Sypawka:

Mrs. Sypawka studied violin under Mrs. Joanne Bath from 1968 until 1978. During college, she placed her emphasis on a performance degree in Classical Ballet and taught dance/ movement classes to children of all ages. In 2001, she enrolled in East Carolina University School of Music to begin working on her certification of The Suzuki Pedagogy Program. In 2003 she completed Books 1–10 Certification and has been teaching Suzuki violin ever since. She teaches in her home studio, St. Peter Catholic School and here at St. Peters Junior Kindergarten. She is an active member of the Sinfonia strings group at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Mrs. Sypawka recently created a Suzuki Twinkle-Movement Class for young children and has been teaching this class for the North Carolina Suzuki Institute at East Carolina University School of Music since 2008. She also started a Suzuki Program at the Children of Destiny Orphanage in Jinotega, Nicaragua in 2008. Mrs. Sypawka loves teaching young children and her passion is bringing children and their parents into the beauty of classical music through Suzuki violin. If you have any questions, please email her at [lsypawka@gmail.com](mailto:lsypawka@gmail.com)

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St. Peter’s Pre-Twinkle Registration Form – please return to school with your fee

\_\_\_ \$360 for first semester (4 months) fee included – please make check payable to: Leigh Sypawka

\_\_\_ \$450 for second semester (5 months) due in January - please make check payable to: Leigh Sypawka

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Best Phone for communication \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell for messaging) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_ please print clearly