



St. Peter Catholic School

Afterschool Suzuki Beginner Group Violin Program

2018-2109



Mission Statement:

To provide the children who attend St. Peter Catholic School After-School Program the opportunity to start Suzuki Violin Classes while at After-School. This will be a one to two-year introductory course, to explore if Suzuki Violin is an option that fits into a child's life-learning experience. This program is for beginners only. Students currently taking violin lessons do not qualify. The violin instrument will be provided by the **parents** with guidance from the instructor. More information will be provided when requested.

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 this After-School Program that we nurture the child's love of music through positive learning and re-enforcement of skills at home. For more information on Suzuki Violin please go to the Suzuki Association of Americas for more detailed information. (www.suzukiassociation.org/about/suzuki-method)

Structure of Suzuki Beginner Violin Program

Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and classes are limited. Each child will be in a small group class for a 30-minute lesson every Monday during After-School hours. The parent is required to come to an information meeting and lesson at the beginning of the year. 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 want! Posture is a vital part of playing violin. The first few months will be spent strictly on proper holding and handling of the violin and bow. Specific rhythm patterns will be taught and expected to know to ultimately learn how to play with their violin. We take these steps slowly so that it is understood by both parent and child.

What are my responsibilities as a parent?

Each parent should attend instructional meetings. They will be held twice first semester (Sept. – December) and twice second semester (Jan – May). Practicing should be done at home daily. Each child needs to have the Suzuki Violin CD Vol. Most local music stores have this 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 will learn to play the instrument a little themselves in the instructional meetings so that they can practice with the child. Over time, 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! Parents would benefit reading "Nurtured by Love" by Shinichi Suzuki. It can be purchased at Barnes and Nobles or purchased online.

How do we fit in with the other “violin” 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.

When and how do I register?

You must register during the orientation period. Enrollment is limited. The fee for classes is \$360 for first semester (Sept. – Dec.) and \$450 for second semester (Jan – May). The student is expected to have their violin on the first day of class (Sept. 12)

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 is an active member of the Sinfonia strings group at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville Suzuki Association of Americas, and Greenville Suzuki Association of Greenville-Pitt County. 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

St. Peter Catholic School Afterschool Violin Registration Form

Please return to school with your fee

\$360 for first semester group lessons (4 months) fee included – please make check payable to: Leigh Sypawka
\$450 for second semester group (5 months) is not due until January

Student Name: _____ Class: _____ Teacher: _____

Parents Names: _____ Phone1: _____ Phone2: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____
This is the primary means of communication, please print clearly