

Suzuki Violin Program Policy Bay Chamber Music School

Welcome to the Suzuki program at Bay Chamber Music School! We are delighted that your family will be joining us this year. This policy provides information about the Suzuki method and what you can expect in the coming months and years.

The Suzuki Philosophy

Dr. Shinichi Suzuki founded the Suzuki method based on the belief that children learn music best in the same way they learn language from their parents. Also called the "Mother Tongue" method, Suzuki students learn first aurally, by listening, and through repetition. Once basic technique is established, students begin reading music, typically at the same time they begin reading in school. The Suzuki method is also called "Talent Education" and "Ability Development" under the premise that anyone can become a fine musician with the right kind of guidance.

Role of Parents

Because the Suzuki method is built around the idea of learning music the same way we learn language, a great deal of emphasis is placed on the parent-child relationship. Parents are expected to attend all lessons and classes, practice with their child, and create an environment at home that is conducive to learning. This does not mean that parents must be musical; rather it means that they too must be willing to learn and be an active participant in the child's music education.

Program Structure and Attendance

The Suzuki program at Bay Chamber Music School includes a weekly private lesson, a weekly group class, and recitals and performances (both group and solo) throughout the year. Private lessons are essential for students to grow in technique, musicality and ability. Group lessons teach students to play with other children and reinforce what all the students are learning in their private lessons. All Suzuki students study the same repertoire, and the group environment serves as a wonderful motivator and learning experience for children. Participation in private lessons, group classes and performances is mandatory and regular attendance is expected.

Please see the Bay Chamber Music School policy for more information including registration and fee schedule, weather emergencies, and make-up policy. If your child has an occasional conflict, you may contact other parents in the studio to try to trade lesson times for that week as long as you notify the teacher of the change.

Students and parents are expected to practice daily and participate fully in the program. Students who do not meet these basic requirements may be discontinued if the situation is not remedied by regular practice and attendance.

Parent/Student Agreement

We have read and understand the Bay Chamber Music School policy and the above description of the Suzuki violin program. We agree to strive for musical excellence and realize that this cannot happen apart from regular attendance, daily practice, and participation in group classes and recitals. We will do our best to uphold the values of the Suzuki philosophy in our home and at Bay Chamber Music School.