# SIS Parent/Student Handbook

**The Suzuki Institute of Seattle Directory**

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# The Suzuki Method

The Suzuki method of music instruction was developed over 50 years ago by Dr. Shinichi Suzuki of Matsumoto, Japan. The method is based on the concept that every child's innate musical talent can be nurtured. A child can be taught music at a very early age much the same way that he or she learns to speak. Children learn language through encouragement, exposure, and repetition. Together, parents and Suzuki teachers use these principles to provide an ideal environment at the lessons as well as at home. The triangular arrangement of teacher, parent, and child is the key to success through early childhood, and it leads to increasing independence and self-motivation in the teenage years.

One aim of the Suzuki method is to develop each child's character to its fullest potential. The skills which are developed while learning an instrument – concentration, coordination, memory, long attention span, respect for other people, taking turns, working together in a group – are all skills that are valuable for any person. Dr. Suzuki emphasized that his ultimate goal was to develop the natural musical ability of a child for his or her own happiness.

# Parent Participation

Active parent participation is central to the Suzuki learning process. Your role as a parent involves observing and taking notes at lessons, playing instrument recordings, and practicing daily with your child. Even if you feel you know little about music, you are your child's best teacher. Through your affection, support, encouragement, praise, and understanding, you can create a happy "musical environment." Parents are offered classes each semester to learn more about their role and about the Suzuki philosophy.

# Private Lesson Etiquette

- Arrive early, sit in the parking lot (a great time to do some listening) and approach the door 3-5 minutes before your lessons time.
- Please use the lot on the west side of the church for parking unless you are dropping someone off.  Leave the side door parking for faculty and easy drop off.
- Doors are locked for student and teacher safety, we do not have a front of house employee.  Your teacher or another parent will let you in a few minutes before your lesson begins.
- Please do not knock or pull on the door to try to get the attention of someone to let you in. Your teacher does not want to stop teaching the previous student to let you in, you could be interrupting a pivotal learning moment.
- Parents are required to be in all lessons unless approved by your individual teacher.
- Parents should be present and take notes during the lesson.
- Turn off phones and other devices that might make noise.
- Pack up materials quickly at the end of your lesson so that the next student can start.

# Concerts

Solo Recitals

Our twice yearly solo recitals provide the opportunity for each student to perform a polished solo piece in a formal setting. Rehearsals with the pianist (if applicable) should happen before the recital day. Dress your best for a recital. Sweatpants are very seldom the thing to wear. Ask your teacher to see if they have more requirements. If you are in the audience please clap when appropriate, make sure younger siblings are not making noise (if they are please excuse yourself to the lobby behind the doors), do not leave your kids to be on their own, please sit together as a family, and stay for the entire performance to support all students.

Spring Group Class Concert

This concert allows our group classes to play together in a formal concert. A great gathering for all students and families, we look forward to seeing everyone on stage for that big group sound. This concert is only once a year so try to make it a priority and mark it in your calendar early. Arrive early to tune and make sure if you are playing with sheet music that you have your music.

Community Performances

Performances outside of the school are a great way to spread the music we all love while giving our students performance opportunities. If everyone could try to make it to at least one of these each year. For these concerts we ask that you wear your Suzuki T-shirt and jeans. Remember to bring your music, your instrument, if you are a string player, and young cellists should bring their chairs.

To keep up to date on all of the concerts and recitals at SIS, visit our Upcoming Events page on our website where you can link our calendar to yours and never miss an event!

# Tuition

| LESSON LENGTH* | SEMESTER TUITION<br><br>(1 payment) | MONTHLY TUITION<br><br>(4 Payments) |
|---|---|---|
| 30 minutes | $1,105 + tax | $276.25 + tax |
| 45 minutes | $1,530 + tax | $382.50 + tax |
| 60 minutes | $1,802 + tax | $450.50 + tax |

Tuition includes weekly private lessons, group class lessons, recital fees, administrative fees and accompanying fees.

Spring & Fall Semester Tuition is payable by either semester, by half semester or in four equal monthly payments due at the first lesson of each month.

Summer Lesson Tuition is to be paid in full at or before the first lesson and is based on the number of lessons you will receive.

Mid-Semester Enrollment—Tuition for new students entering mid-semester will be calculated at the per lesson rate.  You can register at any time.

Annual Registration Fee—Each Spring student that expresses an intent to return in the fall will be assessed a placeholder fee of $75 for a single child and $100 for more than one child. This fee guarantees a place in the teacher's studio, does not apply to tuition payments and is non-refundable. New students will be charged a one-time fee upon signing up for lessons.

# Tuition Assistance

At SIS, we offer Tuition Assistance in an effort to make our program more accessible and affordable to the people in our community. We have a limited number of full scholarships available, which include the student's instrument rental, to those who qualify. We also can cover up to 50% of fees for our lesson fees, which include group class. Those students on the full scholarship or the Tuition Assistance program will also be eligible for financial assistance to our various programs offered through the year.

In addition to Tuition Assistance for our lesson fees, we separately offer Tuition Assistance, to those who qualify, to the variety of programs that we offer throughout the year, such as

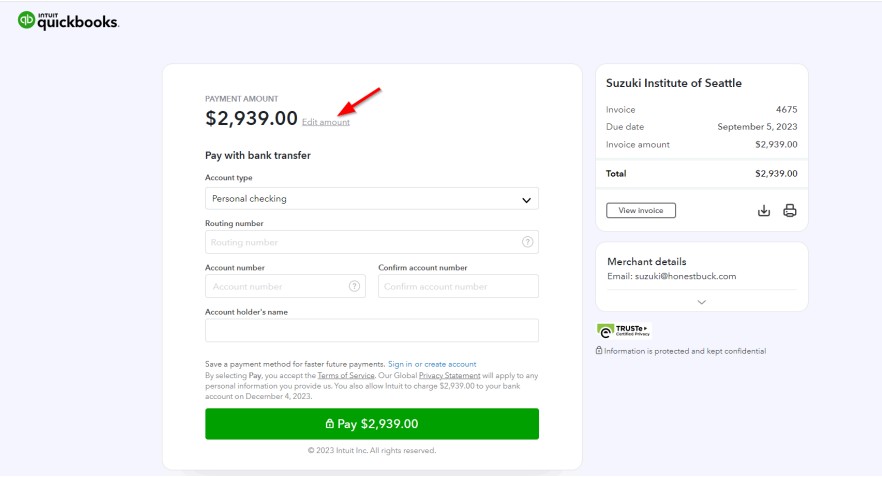
Seabeck, Cello Camp, Chamber Camp, Winter Workshop, Tiny Seeds(SECE) and Explore Suzuki Music.

Please email suzukiinstitute@suzukiinstitute.org to inquire about Tuition Assistance. We'll then send you a form to give us a little more information about the student's household to help us determine the level of assistance that is appropriate. SIS uses the King County Housing Authority's Chart for Seattle AMI percentage and family size to determine need.

# How Do I Pay?

Our accountants, Honest Buck, will send a tuition notice through Intuit Quickbooks when it is time to pay your tuition.  Below is a sample of what this email will look like.  If you wish to pay the whole semester in one payment you can just click "Review and pay".

If you wish to pay in 4 installments you click where we have the red arrow which will take you to the next page pictured below. From there you can divide your payment into 4 equal payments due by the 15th of each month.  Sept. 15th, Oct. 15th, Nov. 15th and Dec. 15th for Fall.  Feb. 15th, March 15th, April 15th and May 15th for the Spring.



If you do not wish to pay using Intuit Quickbooks, SIS also accepts payments via check. If you would like to pay via check, please make it out to "Suzuki Institute of Seattle.” and mail it to the below address.

Suzuki Institute of Seattle
2400 N. W. 80th St. Suite #136
Seattle, WA 98117

# Lesson Make-Up and Illness Policy

Vacations during the regular Suzuki calendar (we follow the Seattle Public Schools calendar) do not qualify for make-up lessons. Extended illness and other extenuating circumstances will be considered for make-up lessons on an individual basis by your teacher.

Visiting relatives, birthday parties, sports activities, “forgetting,” etc. do not qualify as valid reasons for make-up lessons.

If the teacher cancels lessons, the teacher will schedule appropriate make-up lessons. Please note the following exception:

- A teacher may cancel one lesson per semester without make-up.

Teachers are not required to give more than one make-up lesson per semester for lessons canceled by the student.

Make-up lessons must be taken during the current semester and will not be carried over into the next semester.

You must stay home and have a virtual lesson if the student and/or their accompanying parent/guardian is contagious (even if it’s not Covid). If you are unsure you are contagious, contact your primary care doctor and please exercise caution if considering an in-person lesson. Our teachers reserve the right to send a student home or schedule a virtual lesson if they deem it appropriate for health reasons.

If you have a specific circumstance and are unsure if you should attend in person or not, please email your teacher.  The safety and health of everyone in the school is of the highest importance, and we appreciate you all working together to create a learning environment that is comfortable for everyone.

Group classes will not be rescheduled.

# Instruments and Supplies

Rent vs. Buy: For fractional size string instruments we recommend renting until you reach full size. Included in most rentals is strings, bow rehair and fixing broken instruments.  If you choose to buy, you are responsible for those things (strings $200-500 per year, bow rehair $80 per year, repairs could be up to the cost or beyond the cost of the instrument.) Students are often only on a given fractional size for a year or two, so if you buy an instrument you may have to purchase another size every few years. We will not help sell instruments you have purchased.  When sizing, trust your teacher's advice over the shop employee.

**Where to rent from?**

**Violin/Viola/Cello**

Hammond Ashley Violins
hammondashley.com
sales@hammondashley.com
(425) 392-3963

Bischofberger Violins
bviolinsltd.com
contact@bviolinsltd.com
206-324-3119

Olsen Violins
olsenviolins.com
info@olsenviolins.com
206-783-7654

Vermont Violins
vermontviolins.com
vrichelieu.com
kris@vermontviolins.com
360-920-6448

**Piano**
We strongly recommend an acoustic piano for home practice. The connection between key sensitivity and tone quality is something children are learning from the very beginning, and an acoustic instrument is much more sensitive than a digital one. Having an acoustic piano will allow your child to replicate the tone that they hear at lessons and on the recordings. Many upright models have practice mutes built in if you have shared walls and need to be mindful of the noise level. If you have questions or concerns, your teacher will be happy to help you explore an option that will work best for your unique situation.

Classic Pianos
seattle.classicpianos.net
425-462-1888

Northwest Pianos
northwestpianos.com
425-241-8835

# App Recommendations

**Tuning Apps**:
- Pitch, iStroboSoft, Guitar Tuna, Soundcorset

**Metronome Apps:**
- Guitar Tuna, Tempo, Soundcorset

**Theory App:**
- Tenuto

**Theory Website:**
- musictheory.net

**Sight Reading Website:**
- sightreadingfactory.com

# Book Recommendations

- *Nurtured by Love* - S. Suzuki
- *Ability Development from Age Zero* - S. Suzuki
- *Beyond the Music Lesson* - Christine E. Goodner
- *Music Practice Makeover* - Christine E. Goodner
- *Helping Parents Practice* - Edmund Sprunger
- *Balance Point* - Ed Kreitman

# Local Performing Groups

Taking your child to live classical music events can be very motivating, we suggest attending as many concerts as possible, especially the ones featuring your specific instrument. Below are some of the local performing groups that we enjoy. Also check out The University of Washington for solo and orchestral performances. These are usually a cheaper ticket and a good way to warm up young audience members. Maybe you only make it through the overture? Maybe the next time you make it through the first half?

Additionally, there is a great resource called the Live Music Project which is a Seattle based non-profit that maintains a calendar of classical music concerts happening around Seattle and virtually. They also have a Spontaneous Free Ticket program that aims to help remove the barrier to expensive classical music concerts. Sign up for their weekly emails on their website, livemusicproject.org.

**Seattle Symphony**
seattlesympony.org

- Many performances throughout the year featuring world renowned soloists and a beautiful concert hall accessible by lightrail

**Symphony Tacoma**
Symphonytacoma.org

- Many performances throughout the year featuring world renowned soloists, a chance to see Jeanne perform.

**NOCCO - North Corner Chamber Orchestra**
nocco.org

- 4 concerts a year, in the spring there is a High School Concerto winners concert, a chance to see Kevin perform and if you are lucky Rose and Michael too!

**Seattle Collaborative Orchestra**
seattlecollaborativeorchestra.org

- A cool mix of High School and Professional players

**Seattle Opera**
seattleopera.org

**Pacific Northwest Ballet**
pnb.org