

Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas

Curriculum

At the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas, each student participates in an individual lesson, a group lesson and a theory class each week. Concerts, recitals, and other group activities are available throughout the month. We offer lessons for the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, harp, piano, organ, theory and composition, and chamber music.

Individual Lessons

Lesson days and times are arranged privately with the teacher. Every student must be accompanied to the lesson by his or her parent. Please remember to sign your child's attendance sheet at every lesson.

Group Lessons

Group lessons are organized by instrument and level. These classes enhance the learning process, reinforce the individual lesson and broaden the student's musical expression. Please note that your child may not be in a group class taught by their private instructor. For new beginners, our early music education course, Kodomo music may be substituted as the group lesson until your child is old enough or advanced enough to take part in the appropriate group class.

Music Theory Classes

Music Theory classes are organized by age and level and help students read, write and understand music notation. A student's understanding of music will not be complete if they do not participate in theory class. Our classes range from Primer to Pre College Theory.

Kodomo Music

Kodomo Music is a weekly class for children ages 18 months to 4 years old that combines the use of the Suzuki repertoire with musical awareness, pitch, rhythm and movement activities. Kodomo Music is an excellent preparation for instrument study and helps the child respond in a group situation, follow musical instructions and enjoy music with their family and friends. Kodomo classes do not emphasize performance. Everyone is invited to join in the fun or watch quietly from his or her parent's lap. Please visit kodomomusic.org for more information

Parent Training Classes

The Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas requires that all parents attend a six-hour parent information course taught by Ms. Donna. The Parent Training classes are organized into four 1.5 hour sessions and are typically offered twice a year. This class is included in the one-time Admission fee and may be attended multiple times. Parent Training classes provide necessary information to parents regarding the Suzuki Method and Philosophy. The class enables parents to effectively support and nurture their children in musical studies.

Parent Expectations

The triangular relationship between the teacher, student and parent is fundamental to the Suzuki Method. The active role of the parent is fundamental to the success of the child. Parents are responsible for:

1. Maintaining consistent attendance at all lessons, including group lessons, play-ins and any other recommended activities.
2. Attendance at all four Parent Training Courses and reading “Nurtured by Love.”
3. Supervision of child’s daily practice and daily listening.
4. Obtaining a proper size and quality instrument for their child, as well as other equipment and supplies deemed necessary by the teacher.
5. Pursuing continuing education through workshops, appropriate parent education meetings and group discussions as well as the standard training provided by SMID.
6. Appropriate supervision of their children while at the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas.

Listening

Students are expected to listen daily to CDs of current repertoire. Students also listen for the purpose of review and familiarization of future repertoire. Parents should play recordings of masterworks at home and take their children to concerts and recitals whenever possible to hear examples of music play by professional artists. Immersion in high quality music is one of the tenants of the Suzuki method and is a great predictor for student success.

Steps to registration

The registration process begins with filling out an observation requisition form located here: <https://suzukidallas.wufoo.com/forms/r6qenyu1o6uukq/>

Once we have received your request, we will put you in contact with the appropriate teacher. That teacher will work with you to arrange observations of a current student. It is highly recommended that new students (with their parents!) complete at least four observations. This is so that student and parent have a thorough understanding of how lessons are conducted, what is expected at home during practice, and how the relationship is developed between the teacher, parent and child. Parents of new students must also complete the Parent Education Course. This course will be offered at the beginning of each semester. New parents have the option to attend this class before registering their student for lessons.

New students may commence lessons when the assigned teacher determines the child has achieved readiness for instruction, observations have been completed and all appropriate fees have been paid.

New Student Checklist

1. Schedule and complete four observations (you are encouraged to do a combination of individual and group classes)

2. Take the Parent Training Course with Ms. Donna Davis as soon as possible. "New Parent" training classes are scheduled throughout the year – four 1 1/2 hour sessions.
3. Completely fill out registration form (one for each child)
4. Pay a one time \$200 New family Admission Fee and the annual \$150 Registration Fee
5. Schedule individual lesson time with your teacher
6. Sign up for the proper group and theory classes
7. Buy and read Dr. Suzuki's book "Nurtured by Love." "Helping Parents Practice" by Edmund Sprunger is also recommended reading.
8. Buy Suzuki Method Volume 1 Book and CD, Practice Planner, beginner Theory Time book, and begin listening to CD at home
9. Buy or rent the proper instrument: please make sure to talk to your teacher first!
10. Make the first tuition payment.
11. Begin lessons! We look forward to going on this journey with you!